

provided to a Member or legislative employee at a political convention are not incurred in connection with their official duties and do not count toward the \$100 threshold.³

II. Financial Disclosure Requirements – Meals and Beverages from Lobbying Sources:

Meals and beverages provided to a Member or legislative employee directly from an Ohio legislative agent or the employer of an Ohio legislative agent, will be reported by the legislative agent or employer regardless of whether the meals and beverages were related to official duties. Meals and beverages provided by a legislative agent to a Member of the General Assembly or legislative staff while attending a political convention count towards the \$75 annual limit. The “national conference exception,” often referenced when discussing Ohio’s ethics and lobbying laws, **does not** apply to political party nominating conventions.

Members and all legislative staff are reminded that they are prohibited from accepting more than \$75, aggregated per calendar year, in meals and beverages from a legislative agent.⁴ This limit does not apply to meals and beverages from the employer of a legislative agent.⁵ A Member’s or legislative employee’s name will be included in a legislative agent’s Activity and Expenditure Report, if he or she accepts more than \$50 in meals and beverages from the legislative agent in a calendar year.⁶ Meals and Beverages received from the employer of a legislative agent are reportable from \$0.01. A Member or legislative employee whose name appears on a lobbying expenditure report will include this information on his or her financial disclosure statement, under *Section 11: Non-disputed Information*.

Please note: Meals and beverages provided at an All-Invited Event do not count towards the \$75 annual limit or trigger the reporting of a recipient’s name on a lobbying report. An All-Invited Event is a dinner, party, or reception to which all Members of the General Assembly, or all Members of either chamber of the General Assembly, are invited to attend. An event need not be exclusive to General Assembly Members to be considered an All-Invited Event.⁷

III. Financial Disclosure Requirements – Gifts:

Members and legislative employees must identify the source of a gift where the value of the gift or gifts, aggregated per calendar year exceeds \$75 (or if received from a legislative agent, \$25) in *Section 9: Gifts* on their financial disclosure statement.⁸ Members and all legislative

³ Generally, receptions are considered to fall under the meal section where the main purpose of the event is for social gathering and not entertainment, even assuming there is some type of background entertainment. However, where the main purpose is entertainment (i.e., a well-known band is hired to perform a concert), that would be considered a gift.

⁴ R.C. 102.031(C)(2); § 5(B)(2) Legislative Code of Ethics.

⁵ To determine whether an expenditure is attributable to a legislative agent or an employer, the Ohio Legislative Inspector General (OLIG) uses a “point of sale” test. From the perspective of the recipient, the OLIG asks: “at the time of the expenditure, who would the recipient say paid for or provided the expenditure?” See Ohio Lobbying Handbook, at 46.

⁶ Legislative Agents may spend up to \$50.00 aggregated per calendar year per reportable person without itemizing the expenditure. See Ohio Lobbying Handbook, at 41.

⁷ R.C. 101.73(D).

⁸ R.C. 102.02(A)(2)(g). Generally, a gift provided to a spouse is for the use or benefit of the Member or employee (i.e., spouse is receiving the gift because he or she is the spouse of the Member or employee).

staff are reminded of the prohibition on accepting more than \$75, aggregated per calendar year, in gifts from a legislative agent.⁹ A legislative agent or employer of a legislative agent who provides a gift valued at more than \$25, must report the Member or legislative employee as the recipient of a gift on their corresponding Activity and Expenditure Report.¹⁰ In turn, a Member or legislative employee whose name appears on a lobbying expenditure report will include this information on his or her financial disclosure statement, under *Section 11: Non-disputed Information*.

A. Charitable Fundraisers – Tickets:

A non-political fundraiser is one held by a non-profit charitable organization. A ticket to a non-political fundraiser where the source of the ticket is the entity hosting the event is not a gift for lobbying or financial disclosure reporting purposes.¹¹ However, Members and legislative staff are reminded that a complimentary ticket to a non-political fundraiser where the source of the ticket is a third party is a gift.¹² Where the source of the complimentary ticket is a third party, the value of the ticket is the portion of the ticket price that is not a tax-deductible charitable donation.¹³

B. Political Fundraisers – Tickets:

Regarding the acceptance and reporting of tickets to political fundraisers, Members and legislative employees are reminded that a ticket to a political fundraiser given to a Member or legislative staff by a person other than the candidate or committee on whose behalf the fundraiser is being held is a gift.¹⁴ The value of which, is the actual face value of admission.¹⁵ However, complimentary attendance at a political fundraising event is not considered a gift if the source of the complimentary admission is the candidate/committee hosting the event.¹⁶

C. Reporting of Social Events Held by the Political Parties During the Political Conventions:

During the political conventions, the national (RNC/DNC), state (Ohio Republican Party/Ohio Democratic Party), and/or local political parties will also likely hold non-fundraising social events as part of the political conventions. The costs incurred for the social events may be offset by financial support provided to the national, state, or local political parties from third parties, including those who are registered lobbyists or the employers of registered lobbyists. Where the Member or legislative employee is invited by a national, state, or local political party to attend the event hosted by the party, the source of the gift for financial disclosure statement reporting purposes is the party organization hosting/inviting the Member

Therefore, the amount of the gift must be added to the amount, if any, of the gift received by the Member or employee.

⁹ R.C. 102.031(C)(3); § 5(C) Legislative Code of Ethics.

¹⁰ Admin. Code 101-9-01(D)(2).

¹¹ 2000 JLEC Advisory Op. 2000-002; See R.C. 102.02(A)(2)(g).

¹² 2014 JLEC Advisory Op. 2014-003; See R.C. 102.02(A)(2)(g).

¹³ 2014 JLEC Advisory Op. 2014-003.

¹⁴ *Id.*

¹⁵ 2000 JLEC Advisory Op. 2000-002.

¹⁶ *Id.*

or legislative reportable person. Mere financial support provided by sponsors to the national, state, or local political parties does not trigger financial disclosure or lobbying reporting by those sponsors.

IV. Prohibition – Travel:

Members and legislative staff are prohibited from accepting travel expenses¹⁷ from a legislative agent **except actual travel expenses related to official duties**, which Members and legislative employees must identify under *Section 8: Travel* on their financial disclosure statement.¹⁸ Travel payments or reimbursements made to a Member or legislative employee for attendance at a presidential national convention **are not incurred in connection with their official duties**. As such, except for each car trip under 50 miles one way, Members and legislative staff are prohibited from accepting actual transportation/lodging expenses from a legislative agent for any travel related to attendance at a political convention.¹⁹

Please note that travel expenses paid for or reimbursed **by a campaign committee** are not considered gifts for financial disclosure purposes. These reimbursements will be reported in campaign finance reports, thus serving the public interest of full and fair disclosure. Reasonable, ordinary, necessary and verifiable expenses for a candidate/officeholder and spouse to attend a party's national convention are considered to be legitimate campaign fund expenditures.²⁰

¹⁷ For ethics purposes, travel is defined as lodging and any transportation by airplane, train, or common carrier regardless of the distance and any transportation by automobile, for each trip which exceeds 50 miles per trip, one way. Lodging encompasses the following: (1) A stay of one or more nights in a commercial establishment or (2) A stay of one or more nights in a noncommercial private dwelling. As to noncommercial private dwellings, this includes residences owned in whole or in part by a legislative agent. See 1997 JLEC Advisory Op. 97-006.

¹⁸ R.C. 102.031(C)(1); R.C. 102.03(H); § 5(B)(1) Legislative Code of Ethics.

¹⁹ If a Member or legislative employee accepts travel from a non-prohibited source, he or she will report the entity as the source of a gift.

²⁰ Ohio Elections Commission Advisory Opinion 96ELC-09, available at <http://elc.ohio.gov/AdvisoryOpinion/96ELC-09.pdf>.

Stepp, Taylor

From: Adams, Alexandra
Sent: Wednesday, February 18, 2015 9:24 AM
To: GOP_All
Cc: Scherer, Gary
Subject: RE: Consumption taxes are less worse than income taxes!!

For those who are interested in accessing the Dropbox folder with the research articles, the link is below.

https://www.dropbox.com/sh/5meu3eg4z5wksuh/AAACgaDFcz6hHg8SPF5R_9kea?dl=0

Please let me know if you have any questions.

Alexandra Adams
Legislative Aide
Office of Representative Gary Scherer
92nd House District
(614) 644-7928
Rep92@ohiohouse.gov

Click to follow Representative Scherer



From: Scherer, Gary
Sent: Tuesday, February 17, 2015 12:29 PM
To: GOP_All
Cc: Scherer, Gary
Subject: Consumption taxes are less worse than income taxes!!

To my colleagues in the House GOP caucus:

As promised, I am providing copies of research documents making the argument that, while all taxes are bad, consumption taxes are less bad than income taxes.

The attached PDF is 27 pages long, but please note that I have highlighted relatively small portions of it for your reading pleasure!

Many more documents are available in my dropbox.com account. My LA Alexandra Adams, will send you the credentials to access when she returns on Wednesday.

Much of the attached document is from the ALEC publication Rich States, Poor States. Many thanks to Bill Blessing for reminding me that it was so much on point with the idea that a consumption tax is less worse than a progressive income tax.

Perhaps after reading these, we come to a general agreement that a tax shift from income tax to consumption tax is appropriate and beneficial for Ohioans.

The tough part will be to stand up to the liberals who will cry that it's a regressive move, despite facts to the contrary. Also, it will require us to educate our constituents. Unfortunately, the sales tax is a very visible tax that smacks us in the face on the receipt for every taxable purchase we make. The natural reaction will be to hate it.

Lower income taxes are more subtle, buried in our payroll stub or an increased tax refund once a year.

Even though a tax shift is the right thing to do, it would be easier not to do it. We will need to have the backbone to do what's right!

If you have questions or comments, please contact my LA, Alexandra Adams, or me.

Thanks for your consideration..... Gary Scherer

Rep93

From: Nick Dranias <nick.dranias@compactforamerica.org>
Sent: Friday, August 07, 2015 10:10 PM
To: Rep93
Subject: ALEC Federalism Task Force BBA Primer Part 2 of 7

Hon. Ryan Smith
Ohio House of Representatives

Dear Representative Smith:

This email is the second in a 7 email series explaining the "Balanced Budget Amendment by Compact" model legislation that will be considered at a video conference meeting of the Federalism Task Force in September.

Previously, we explained that section 1 of the model Balanced Budget Amendment ensures that the federal government cannot spend more than cash on hand from ordinary revenue sources and plain vanilla full faith and credit borrowing. The question left from the last email is naturally how much full faith and credit borrowing is available to be spent under the Amendment?

Here is what section 2 of the model legislation says:

"Outstanding debt shall not exceed authorized debt, which initially shall be an amount equal to 105 percent of the outstanding debt on the effective date of this article. Authorized debt shall not be increased above its aforesaid initial amount unless such increase is first approved by the legislatures of the several states as provided in Section 3."

Section 2 limits the amount of available borrowing capacity or "outstanding debt" to no more than the "authorized debt," which is set at 105% of the full faith and credit debt that exists on the ratification date of the Amendment.

That means, if \$20 trillion in treasury bonds existed on ratification, then the amount of available borrowing capacity is fixed "initially" at \$21 trillion. The extra 5% in authorized debt thus allows for another \$1 trillion in debt spending before borrowing capacity is exhausted.

The most important thing to underscore here is that the Amendment allows the federal government the ability to borrow within a fixed limit. The federal government can pay down the "outstanding debt" and thereby free up the "authorized debt" for future borrowing. If managed responsibly, by paying it down in good times, the initial line of credit will certainly be large enough to manage ordinary governmental operations. And if managed irresponsibly, the federal government's spending will be limited by Section 1 of the Amendment to no more than

what ordinary revenue sources bring in—taxes and income like fees, fines and property sales proceeds, which are free and clear of continuing obligations.

There is a significant benefit to allowing the federal government a specific amount of borrowing capacity. It means that the federal government will have a strong incentive to preserve the value of the dollar. If, for example, the federal government's borrowing capacity is limited to \$21 trillion, then a reduction in the economic value of the dollar also reduces the economic value of the federal government's borrowing capacity. If excessive money printing makes a dollar worth half as much in terms of what it can buy, the federal government's borrowing capacity will be worth half as much as well (because it is limited to a specific dollar amount).

Thus, section 2's specific dollar constitutional debt limit creates a strong incentive for the federal government not to allow the Federal Reserve to excessively print money, which would devalue the dollar. Therefore, the fiscal interests of the federal political class will be aligned with sound money policy.

There is no exception from the section 2's constitutional debt limit except as state legislatures may approve specific increases in the federal government's initially "authorized debt." Such flexibility is reasonable because there may be unforeseen emergencies that justify more than what the initial level of borrowing capacity can sustain. At the same time, the most important feature of the state approval process is that it injects external discipline and fiscal control into federal borrowing above the initial debt limit.

No longer will Congress—the debt addict—have the unilateral power to borrow as much as it wants. No longer will the same hands that make appropriations be relied upon absurdly to refuse to borrow money to pay for those appropriations. No longer will a body that has forgotten how to balance its budget be relied upon to use debt wisely without limit. Instead, the states will have an oversight role, with expertise stemming from the fact that nearly all of them are familiar with limited borrowing capacity, the need to prioritize, and balanced budgets.

If only because of uncertainty over the states' willingness to authorize more borrowing capacity, Congress will have no choice but to husband its use of debt and prioritize its spending. The option of freely sending the bill for current spending to future generations will no longer exist. Institutional jealousies—Congress wanting to avoid begging the states for more borrowing capacity—will favor fiscal moderation at the federal level, instead of federal overreach.

At last, Congress will have a very strong incentive to maintain balanced budgets whenever it is reasonably possible.

But that's not all—the state legislative approval process has many other benefits and safeguards against abuse, which are detailed in section 3 of the model legislation, and discussed in a subsequent email.

If you want a preview of what's coming, you can read a 1 page overview of the model legislation [here](#), you can find a short 5 page policy brief on the model legislation [here](#) or you can watch a 10 minute YouTube video on the model legislation [here](#). Please do not hesitate to call me if you need specific questions answered in advance.

Very truly yours,

Nick Dranias
President & Executive Director
Office of the President
Compact for America Educational Foundation, Inc.
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Rep93

From: Nick Dranias <nck.dranias@compactforamerica.org>
Sent: Tuesday, August 04, 2015 5:59 PM
To: Rep93
Subject: ALEC Federalism Task Force Email Series: Balanced Budget Amendment by Compact-Section 1

Dear Federalism Task Force/International Relations Colleagues:

This email is the first in a 7 email series explaining the "Balanced Budget Amendment by Compact" model legislation that will be considered at a video conference meeting of the Federalism Task Force in September.

The goal of this series is to explain each of the 5 substantive sections of the 629 word model Balanced Budget Amendment in light of the 6th definitional section so that you will have perfect clarity on its meaning and policy implications. This is a BBA that is designed to fix the national debt by strongly incentivizing the correct policy choices, while still having a plausible bipartisan path to ratification in 38 states. The policy components of the amendment have also been poll-tested and enjoy supermajority rates of support. You can verify that [here](#). Another important initial point is that the model legislation is shorter and less complex than many of the BBAs that have been introduced in Congress. You can verify that [here](#).

With that said, here is the text of section 1 of the model legislation:

"Total outlays of the government of the United States shall not exceed total receipts of the government of the United States at any point in time unless the excess of outlays over receipts is financed exclusively by debt issued in strict conformity with this article."

Here are the relevant definitions of section 6 of the model legislation:

- "debt" means any obligation backed by the full faith and credit of the government of the United States;
- "total outlays of the government of the United States" means all expenditures of the government of the United States from any source; and
- "total receipts of the government of the United States" means all tax receipts and other income of the government of the United States, excluding proceeds from its issuance or incurrence of debt or any type of liability.

Taking into consideration these definitions, section 1 means that the federal government cannot spend at "any point in time" more than: (a) tax receipts; (b) income to the federal government that does not constitute proceeds from the incurrence of debt or liabilities; and (c) proceeds from incurring full faith and credit obligations. In other words, the federal budget must be "balanced" by limiting spending to tax receipts, income received free and clear of any

continuing obligation, such as fees and fines, and full faith and credit debt financing. This section is designed to impose a true "pay as you go" cash-based spending limit on the federal government:

Because this section frames its balanced budget concept in terms of a spending limit, there is no risk of judicial intervention forcing a tax increase. There is no textual hook that could justify an increase in receipts to cover excessive spending. If available borrowing capacity is exhausted (which is addressed by sections 2 and 3 of the Amendment, discussed in the next two emails), the judiciary can only force the federal government to spend no more than "total receipts;" i.e. available tax receipts and income received free and clear of any continuing obligation.

Additionally, the definitions utilized in section 6 of the amendment ensure that section 1's pay-as-you-go spending limit cannot be evaded by any known budgetary or financial gamesmanship. For example, the federal government cannot increase its ability to spend by obtaining proceeds from sale-lease back schemes, whereby government assets are "sold" under a condition that they will be leased back on an installment payment schedule; this would constitute "proceeds from the incurrence of liabilities," which is excluded from the definition of "total receipts" to which spending is limited. Likewise, spending remains limited at all times to "total receipts" and available "debt" financing no matter when or how the bills are booked or paid. Consequently, the federal government cannot increase its ability to spend by pushing bills due in the current fiscal year to the next fiscal year. Nor can the federal government increase its ability to spend by "floating warrants," i.e. issuing checks with an instruction not to cash them. Finally, the federal government cannot increase its ability to spend by assuming no-recourse loans or issuing moral obligation bonding because the available "debt" financing that can support spending beyond "total receipts" is limited by section 6 to "full faith and credit" obligations.

The bottom line is that section 1 of the model Balanced Budget Amendment, combined with the relevant definitions of section 6, ensures that federal government cannot spend more than cash on hand from ordinary revenue sources and plain vanilla full faith and credit borrowing. This provision is the unbreakable backbone of the strong limit on federal borrowing capacity that is enforced in sections 2, 3 and 4, which will be discussed in the next three emails.

If you want a preview of what's coming, you can read a 1 page overview of the model legislation [here](#), you can find a short 5 page policy brief on the model legislation [here](#) or you can watch a 10 minute YouTube video on the model legislation [here](#). Please do not hesitate to call me if you need specific questions answered in advance.

Very truly yours,

Nick Dranias
President & Executive Director
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Rep93

From: Nick Dranias <nick.dranias@compactforamerica.org>
Sent: Tuesday, June 30, 2015 3:30 PM
To: Rep93
Subject: Special Invitation to Members of the ALEC Federalism Task Force: "Certainty-Safety-Speed" Meets "The Only Easy Day Was Yesterday"

Dear Representative Smith:

Special Invitation to Members of the ALEC Federalism Task Force

You don't want to meet this event!

"Certainty-Safety-Speed" Meets "The Only Easy Day Was Yesterday"

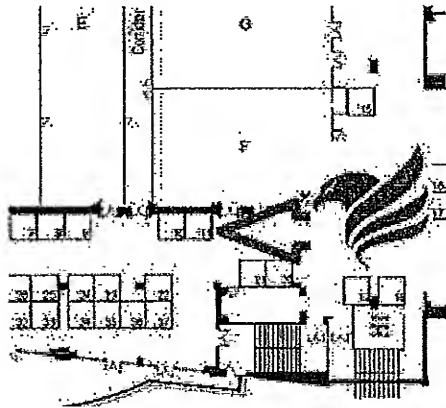
You are invited to join Compact for America Educational Foundation as Compact Administrator for the Compact for a Balanced Budget Commission for a Private and Exclusive Tour of the **San Diego Navy SEAL Amphibious Base on Coronado Island.**



Learn more about America's most elite fighting force and America's most plausible state-based effort to protect the Republic!

When: 1:50 p.m., Thursday, July 23rd

Where: Meet at Compact for America Booths 10 and 11, Manchester Grand Hyatt located at 1 Market Place, San Diego, CA 92101 (the location of the ALEC Annual Convention).



Itinerary:

2:00 p.m. to 2:30 p.m. – Depart hotel and bus transport to facility

2:30 p.m. to 3:45 p.m. – Tour facility with experienced **Navy SEAL instructor**

3:45 p.m. to 4:30 p.m. – Break for refreshments and to discuss Compact for America Initiative.

4:30 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. – Depart facility and bus transport back to Manchester Grand Hyatt

Your Hosts:

Hon. Paulette Rakestraw (Rep-GA)

Chairperson, Compact for a Balanced Budget Commission



Governor Nathan Deal of Georgia appointed Ms. Rakestraw as the Commissioner for the Compact for a Balanced Budget Commission in July of 2014. In January 2015, she became the Chair of the Commission. Commissioner Rakestraw also currently serves as the State Representative for her district. In 2014, she spearheaded the passage of H.B. 794, the Compact for a Balanced Budget in the State of Georgia with the help of fellow legislator Andy Welch, the Goldwater Institute, Compact for America and the head of the Tea Party in Georgia. In addition, Commissioner Rakestraw is a businesswoman. She launched a successful marketing company in 1988 at the age of 21, during a time when there weren't many women owned businesses. She grew the company into a multi-million dollar business, creating hundreds of jobs in her local community. Commissioner Rakestraw has been written about in Tom Stanley's book, "The Millionaire Mind." She has been featured on ABC's 20/20 and has been featured in magazines and newspapers for her success in business as a young female entrepreneur.



Jeff Utsch,
Vice President/Treasurer, Compact for America Educational Foundation, Inc.

Jeff has 18 years' experience training U.S. military personnel and currently serves as an Instructor to the Navy SEALs / Naval Special Warfare community where he teaches specialized tactical swimming to Navy SEALs and support personnel. Jeff is a self-taught constitutional scholar and historian with a keen interest in the founding of this wonderful country. He started a monthly constitution study group nine years ago that continues to this day. He currently can be heard as one of the constitutional experts for the weekly constitution segment of the *James T. Harris Show* on 104.1 The Truth FM radio in Tucson.

Space is limited and we are holding a special block for ALEC Federalism Task Force Members.

But you must **RSVP** on or before Thursday, July 11 to Nick.Dranias@CompactforAmerica.org and Jeff.Utsch@CompactforAmerica.org or by calling Jeff Utsch at 520-977-7946. After that date, any remaining openings in the block will be released to other attendees of the ALEC Annual Meeting in San Diego.

Very truly yours,

Nick Dranias
President & Executive Director
Office of the President
Compact for America Educational Foundation, Inc.
Mobile: 602-228-2582
Office: 602-539-2703
Fax: 602-483-1658
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Rep93

From: Sarah McManamon <SMcManamon@alec.org>
Sent: Monday, April 13, 2015 8:00 PM
To: Rep93
Subject: ALEC Summit Announcement - Friday Workshop



Summit Workshop Announcement and Annual Meeting Registration Now Open

SPRING TASK FORCE SUMMIT



The 2015 ALEC Spring Task Force Summit will take place at the Hyatt Regency Savannah located at 2 W. Bay Street. As of April 10 the hotel is completely sold out. If you have not secured housing for the ALEC Summit, we encourage you to search for a property in the Historic District of Savannah. Many of these properties are within walking distance of the Hyatt. Hotels outside of the historic area area also available near the Savannah-Hilton Head airport with a 25 minute taxi ride to/from the Hyatt. We apologize for any inconvenience this may cause, but are excited to see so many of you in Savannah in just a few short weeks.

If you are a Public Sector Task Force member, and have not yet reserved a room at the Hyatt, ALEC will reimburse your hotel room up to \$210 per night including taxes and fees.

Please contact

if you have

any questions.

**Friday Workshop: "After
King v. Burwell: What a**

THE 42ND ALEC ANNUAL MEETING



Annual Meeting Registration is NOW OPEN

ALEC is excited to announce that registration has been launched earlier than ever before. When making your plans to attend the 2015 Annual Meeting in San Diego, CA be sure to visit the ALEC website for great activities and restaurants to check out! The website will be continually updated as the conference approaches - so check back often!

Supreme Court Ruling on ObamaCare Means for Your State"

The national spotlight shines once again on ObamaCare and the U.S. Supreme Court. The Court's decision in the contentious *King v. Burwell* case, expected in late June, could make it unlawful for taxpayer-funded subsidies to flow through the 37 federally-run health insurance exchanges established under the Affordable Care Act. While a decision in favor of King to end subsidies would effectively eliminate the employer mandate in federal exchange states, policymakers will face tremendous pressure to create and fund a state-based exchange.

On Friday, May 15 at 11:00 AM, join a special discussion featuring Florida Speaker Pro Tempore Matt Hudson, and Tarren Bragdon and Christie Herrera of the Foundation for Government Accountability, to learn the tools, messages and solutions needed to educate and explain the impact of this pending decision.

2900 Crystal Drive, Suite 609 | Arlington, VA 22202

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Sarah McManamon | SMcManamon@alec.org | ALEC | 2900 Crystal Drive, 6th Floor | Arlington, VA 22202

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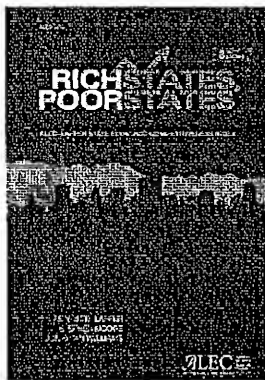
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From: American Legislative Exchange Council <avarnier@alec.org>
Sent: Thursday, April 09, 2015 12:49 PM
To: Rep93
Subject: ALEC Digital Exchange 04-09-2015

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NOW AVAILABLE: 2015 Edition **Rich States, Poor States**

Does your state have a positive economic outlook? What more can be done to make your state competitive?

Download the 2015 edition of *Right States, Poor States: ALEC-Laffer State Economic Competitiveness Index* to find out where your state ranks.

Early Bird Registration Ends Next Friday - Register Today

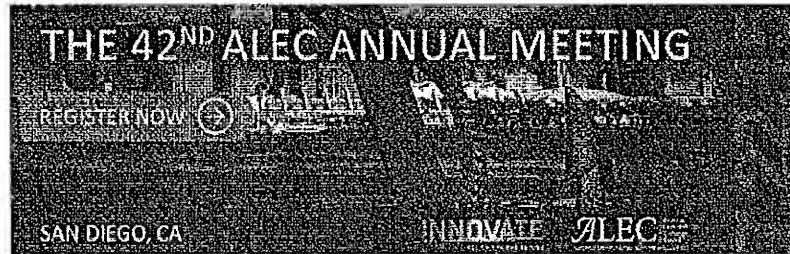


Record Registration: Host Hotel Close to Capacity

Rooms at the host hotel Hyatt Regency Savannah are expected to fill up within the next

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Early Bird Registration ends April 17. [Register today to get your best price.](#)



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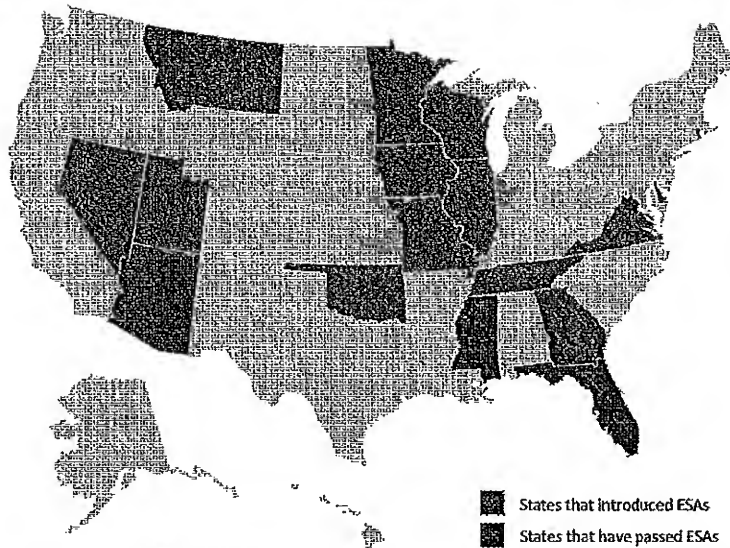
[View the preliminary agenda.](#)

Bring the family and stay the weekend. [Plan your San Diego trip today.](#)

2015 Education Policy Update

EDUCATION SAVINGS ACCOUNTS IN THE STATES*

ALEC
AMERICAN LEGISLATIVE EXCHANGE COUNCIL



*An Education Savings Account allows parents to use the funds that would have been allocated to their child at their resident school district for an education program of the parents' choosing.

AMERICAN LEGISLATIVE EXCHANGE COUNCIL

@ALEC_States

Rich States, Poor States in the News

New York has worse economic outlook than any other U.S. state: report - *NY Daily News*

Vermont 2nd worst economic outlook in nation, according to report - *Vermont Watchdog*

California Still Ranked at Bottom of Economic Competitiveness Report - *FlashReport*

Ohio ranks next to last in economic study - *Ohio Watchdog*

ALEC says Wisconsin's economic outlook is promising, critics question the claim - *The Capital Times*

Report: NY ranks last in competitiveness - *Democrat and Chronicle*

The Leaflet - 2015 State Economic Outlook Rankings - *Heartland Institute*

New Report Crowns The Best and Worst States to do Business With - *The Daily Caller*

Where Does Your State Fall on Rich-Poor Ranking? - *The Blaze*

Cuomo's 'Start-Up NY' program cost \$28 million, created just 76 jobs - *Watchdog.org*

Tax rollbacks push Illinois ahead in Rich State, Poor State report - *Illinois Watchdog*

[See how your state is expected to do economically in 2015 - Washington Examiner](#)

[Conservatives claim victory on taxes at state level - Washington Examiner](#)

[Is Your State on the Path to Prosperity or the Poorhouse? - The Daily Signal](#)

[Richer or poorer? West has brighter economic horizon - Watchdog.org](#)

[Economic Outlook Dismal, Immediate Changes Needed - Long Island Exchange](#)

[Think tank ranks Nevada No. 10 in economic competitiveness - Las Vegas Review-Journal](#)

[ALEC Report Gives Indiana Top Economic Grades - 93.1 WIBC Indy's News Center](#)

[New report shows Indiana's economic health among nation's top 3 - WTTV CBS 4 Indy](#)

[New Report Gives Indiana Top Grades for Economic Health - 1190 AM and 92.3 FM WOWO](#)

[Wisconsin rises in latest economic outlook ranking - Wisconsin Watchdog](#)

[Wyoming Makes Top 10 for Economic Competitiveness - KGWN CBS 5 Cheyenne](#)

[Nebraska up to 31st in economic outlook ranking - Journal Star](#)

[California ranks 44th for U.S. economic competitiveness - The Sacramento Bee](#)

[Report: Texas economic status sunny despite a few fiscal clouds - Watchdog.org](#)

[Capitol Confidential: ALEC report shows poor economic outlook for New York - Times Union](#)

[Michigan Plummets in Economic Outlook Rankings Among States - Michigan Capitol Confidential](#)

[New Report Crowns the Best and Worst States to do Business With - KBET 790 Las Vegas](#)

[Kansas Ranked 18th Best State for Economic Competitiveness - WIBW Radio Topeka](#)

[Michigan Slides in Annual ALEC Poll - 1450 WHTC and 92.7 WYVN Holland](#)

[Michigan Slides in Annual ALEC Poll - WLMI 92.9 Holt](#)

[Michigan Slides in Annual ALEC Poll - 1560 AM, Z96.5 and 95.5 FM Kalamazoo](#)

[Michigan Slides in Annual ALEC Poll - 1590 AM WTVB Coldwater](#)

[Michigan Slides in Annual ALEC Poll - WNWN FM Battle Creek](#)

[Richer or poorer? American West has brighter economic horizon - Liberty Unyielding](#)

[Reports: NY consumer confidence up, economic outlook down - Poughkeepsie Journal](#)

[Utah Tops List in ALEC's Latest Economic Rankings - Utah Policy](#)

[Cause of concern or cause to cheer: ALEC lowers SD rank - Argus Leader](#)

[Where does Ala. rank in the right-state, poor-state rankings? Maybe higher than you'd think - Yellowhammer News](#)

[Report: NY ranks last in economic competitiveness - Politics on the Hudson](#)

[Report: NY ranks last in economic competitiveness - The Journal News](#)

[ALEC: NY Last In Economic Competitiveness - NY State of Politics](#)

[New 2015 Rich States, Poor States Rankings Show Which States Are Most Competitive - American-Legislator](#)

American Legislative Exchange Council in the News

[WaPo's Dana Milbank's Epic Climate Change Fail - Breitbart](#)

[Dana Milbank: Climate Change Deniers in Retreat - Newsmax](#)

[Conservative Legislative Council Says It'll Fight 'Climate Change Denial' Label - Newsmax](#)

[Illinois Governor: State's Economic Problems Create 'Leverage' for Austerity Measures - RHRealityCheck.org](#)

[Bill to make solar power more readily available moving through General Assembly - Hartford Courant](#)

['Green' political donor vows climate agenda push in 2016 U.S. - Reuters](#)

[Conservative group fights climate skeptic label - The Hill](#)

[Study: Proposed Ozone Rule Costliest in Nation's History - Heartland Institute](#)

[This conservative group is tired of being accused of climate denial – and is fighting back - The Washington Post](#)

[Virginia tax machine runs over car owners - Liberty Unyielding](#)

[More States Join Call for Constitutional Convention - Utah Policy](#)

[Conservative lawmakers weigh bid to call for constitutional convention - The Washington Post](#)

[Conservative lawmakers weigh bid to connect with for constitutional conference - Post Pioneer](#)

[Local right-to-work idea being tested in Kentucky - The Washington Times](#)

[West Virginia Latest State to Curb Asbestos Lawsuit Abuse - American Legislator](#)

[New York Towns Consider Secession Over Governor's Fracking Ban - Heartland Institute](#)

[Rand Paul's Favorite Union-Buster - Bloomberg](#)

[Rep. Clyburn: Religious Freedom Laws Part of Larger Effort Against Civil Rights - CNSnews.com](#)


[ALEC, National Powerhouse of State Legislators, Coming to California - Flash Report](#)

[Seizing the Initiative: How States Can Help Themselves in Rehabilitating Underground Water Infrastructure - American Legislator](#)

Selling ALEC Outrage: Don't manufacture political controversy where there is none - U.S. News and World Report

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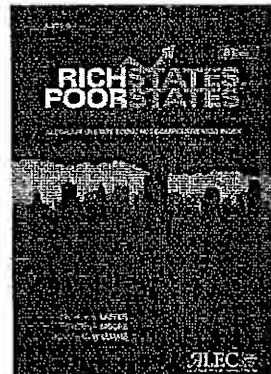


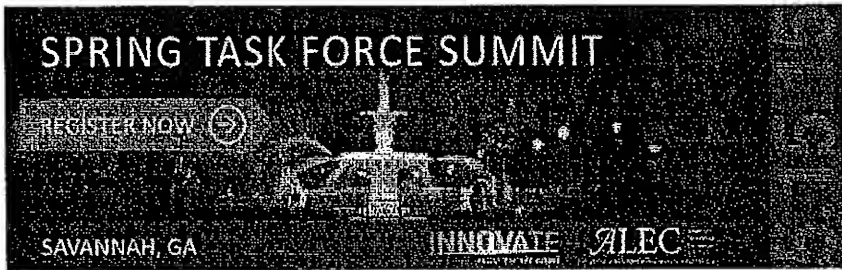
Coming Tomorrow: 2015 Edition
Rich States, Poor States: ALEC-Laffer State
Economic Competitiveness Index

Mark your calendar: the 2015 edition of *Rich States, Poor States: ALEC-Laffer State Economic Competitiveness Index* will be released tomorrow on the ALEC website.

Learn if your state is poised for growth and where your state economic outlook ranks.

Visit www.alec.org/rspis tomorrow to download your copy.





Register Today for the May 15 Spring Task Force Summit

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Early Bird Registration ends April 17. [Register today to get your best price.](#)

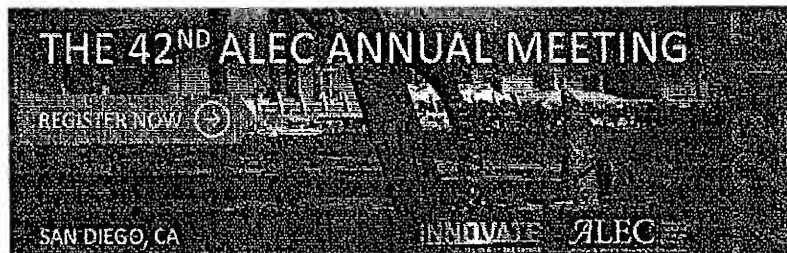
American City County Exchange for Local Officials



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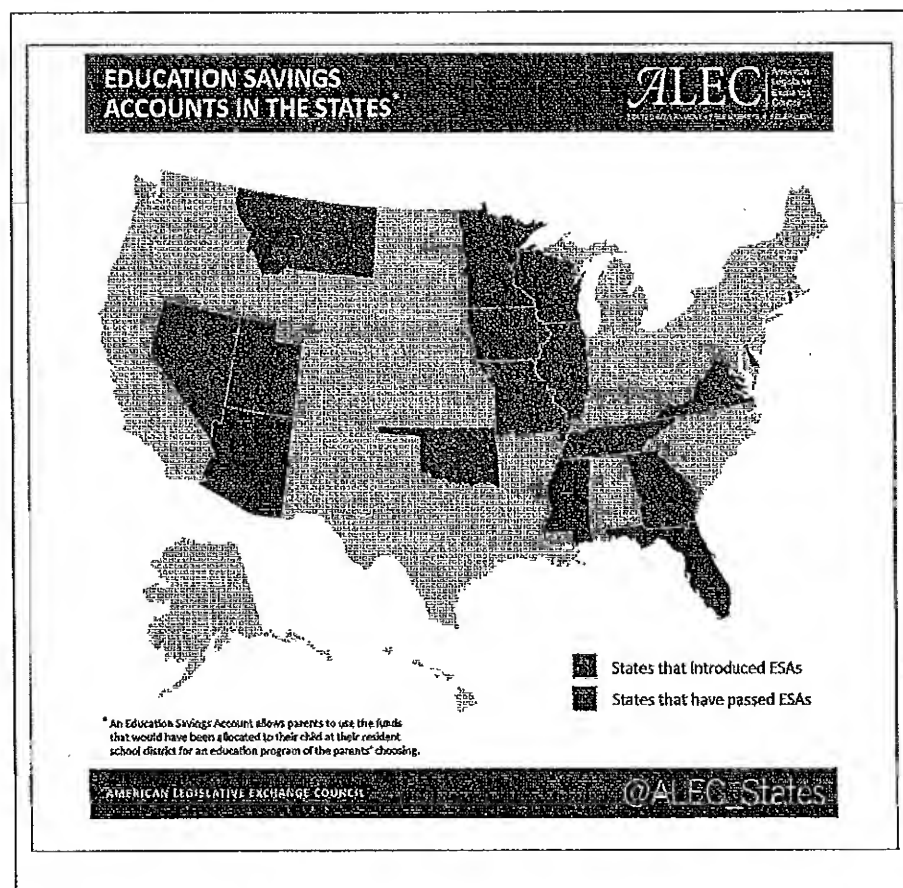
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[View the preliminary agenda.](#)

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2015 Legislative Session Education Update



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Subject: ALEC Digital Exchange 04-02-2015

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Conference Call - Preview State Economic Rankings

What: Call previewing 2015 *Rich States, Poor States* economic rankings

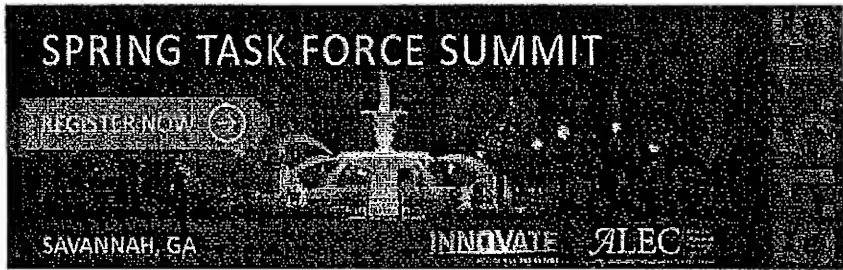
When: Monday, April 6 at 3:00 PM ET

RSVP: Please RSVP to Kati Siconolfi at ksiconolfi@alec.org

Coming Soon: *Rich States Poor States; ALEC-Laffer State Economic Competitiveness Index* 2015 edition



Early Bird Registration Ends in Two Weeks - Register Today to Secure Your Best Price



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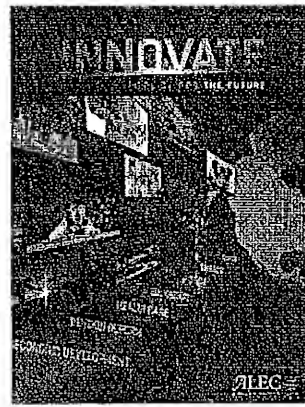
Innovate: Policy for the Future

Hardworking taxpayers deserve a government that respects and protects their time and money.

As legislatures set their 2015 priorities, commitment to measurable success and investment in a healthy economy should be the top goals.

Innovate: Policy for the Future offers solutions that cut red tape and promote economic growth and competition.

Download Innovate: Policy for the Future here.



American Legislative Exchange Council in the News

[Virginia tax machine runs over car owners](#) - *Virginia Watchdog*

[The Energy Link: Energy Producing States and Social Mobility](#) - *American Legislator*

[Homeschooling Continues to Grow](#) - *American Legislator*

[West Virginia and Arkansas Engage on EPA's Clean Power Plan](#) - *American Legislator*

[Liberals get their own 'ALEC' -- it's called 'SiX'](#) - *Alaska Dispatch News*

[Taxpayers Foot Bill for Union Interests](#) - *American Legislator*

[Why your power bill is higher than it should be](#) - *Nevada Appeal*

[The Campus Climate Cursade](#) - *The Wall Street Journal*

[Colorado Taxpayers Will Likely See TABOR Tax Refunds Next Year](#) - *American Legislator*


[Mississippi Becomes 8th State to Protect Direct Primary Care](#) - *American Legislator*

[ALEC CEO Lisa B. Nelson](#) - *Independent Women's Forum*

[Ohio Senate Works to Rein In Closed-Door Deals with Private Attorneys](#) - *American Legislator*

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Rep93

From: Sarah McManamon <SMcManamon@alec.org>
Sent: Wednesday, April 01, 2015 11:31 AM
To: Rep93
Subject: Important ALEC Meeting Announcements



Summit Early Bird Deadline and Annual Meeting Registration Now Open

SPRING TASK FORCE SUMMIT



Early Bird Deadline - April 17

Don't wait to register or book your hotel room!
A very limited number of hotel rooms remain available.

Register for the Summit in these 3 easy steps:

1. Have your credit card on hand
2. Call 571-482-5051 (No answer? ALEC staff is probably helping someone on the other line. Leave a message and a staff member will call you back.)
3. Answer a few questions

That's it! ALEC will take care of the rest - including booking your hotel room and emailing you your confirmations.

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Subject: ALEC Events and Education 03-31-2015

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**Conference Call -
Preview State
Economic Rankings**

What: Call previewing 2015
Rich States, Poor States
economic competitiveness
rankings

When: Monday, April 6 at
3:00 PM ET

RSVP: Please RSVP to Kati
Siconolfi at
ksiconolfi@alec.org

**Coming Soon: *Rich States Poor States*;
ALEC-Laffer State Economic
Competitiveness Index, 2015 Edition**



**Policy Submission DEADLINE TODAY for the Spring Task Force
Summit**

Remember to **submit any policies for discussion at the 2015 Spring Task Force Summit** to the appropriate task force director **by COB TODAY, March 31.**

[View the preliminary agenda here.](#)

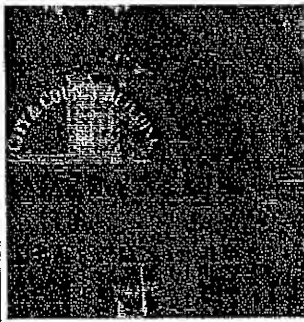


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American City County Exchange for Local Officials



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ALEC Weighs in on Proposed NAAQS Revision

ALEC has submitted a public comment expressing significant concerns with the EPA's plan to revise the existing National Ambient Air Quality Standard (NAAQS) for ozone from 75 parts per billion (ppb) to a level between 60 and 70 ppb. EPA's proposed revision will likely lead to significant problems including rising electricity costs, losses in economic productivity, increased unemployment, electric grid reliability concerns and more.

Read more about EPA's proposed ozone NAAQS revision here.



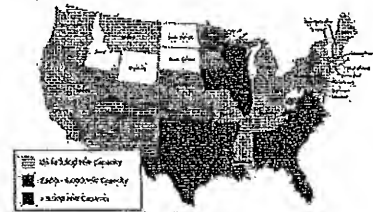
ALEC Website: Clean Power Plan Facts

The ALEC Task Force on Energy, Environment and Agriculture has released a website revealing the extent to which the **U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's proposed Clean Power Plan** will affect electricity generation in the states.

The website contains an interactive map detailing which fossil fuel-fired power plants in each state EPA expects to retire by 2020 as a result of the proposed rule and other environmental regulations.

Finally, **comments submitted to EPA** during the prescribed comment period by state policymakers (e.g., governors, attorneys general, environmental agencies, and public utilities commissions) have been compiled and classified as either generally supporting the proposed rule as written or those expressing significant concerns.

EPA-Projected Coal Capacity Retirements Under 11(d) Proposal* (2016-2020)



*Includes comments submitted to EPA during the prescribed comment period by state policymakers (e.g., governors, attorneys general, environmental agencies, and public utilities commissions) have been compiled and classified as either generally supporting the proposed rule as written or those expressing significant concerns.

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From: Lisa B. Nelson <lisanelson@alec.org>
Sent: Friday, March 27, 2015 2:39 PM
To: Rep93
Subject: ALEC CEO Update

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Dear Friends,

As the first quarter of 2015 and many legislative sessions near their end, I'm pleased to share with you the rapid pace of growth taking place at ALEC. Certainly, the 2014 mid-terms had an impact on our growth potential, but I attribute legislative and business interest in this organization to a renewed clarity of mission and a focus on our members. ALEC has developed a number of new offerings through the Center for State Fiscal Reform, Center for Innovation and Technology and the Center to Restore the Balance of Government. These Centers along with community-specific affinity groups such as the **Women Legislators Caucus** are having an impact on how ALEC works with and adds value to members. As we move forward, ALEC has a clear plan of action that will lead to measurable success for the organization and members.

Already in 2015, we have welcomed more than 150 new legislators and more than a dozen private sector leaders to the ALEC family. We are also on track for one of the largest Spring Task Force Summit meetings of all time.

Today, we are in the planning and initial engagement phase for the **ALEC Women Legislators-Caucus**. Led by Arizona Senator Debbie Lesko, ALEC staff and members are engaging women legislators across the United States to become part of the ALEC family. Of the 1,700 women state legislators in the United States, 236 are ALEC members. By the end of 2015, we will recruit an additional 100 legislators to the ALEC Women Legislators Caucus.

The ALEC Women Legislators Caucus will support women legislators at ALEC, encourage all women to participate in the political process and identify and cultivate future women leaders. The goal of the Caucus is simple: encourage exchange of idea, foster mentorship and develop long-lasting friendship. As the Caucus grows, we will develop a network where women legislators can discuss issues and messaging, learn from other successful women leaders in business and government, and develop networks to address challenges in life and in legislatures around the country.

In the coming months, look for more announcements and media like this piece in Independent Women's Forum regarding the Caucus. There will also be a special event at the Annual Meeting in San Diego.

Just last week, I traveled to Austin, Texas to meet with legislative leaders, state executives and entrepreneurs about threats to the business community's ability to participate in policy discussions. I found people are largely unaware of the coordinated infrastructure aimed not at creating a bright future for the American people, but focused on the destruction and disruption of our way of life. The free market is under attack by a small group of well-funded and coordinated special interests. Led by the Democracy Alliance, approximately a dozen Washington, D.C.-based organizations are pressuring state legislators and companies through grassroots organizing, social media pressure, form-letter distribution campaigns and activist shareholder resolutions.

As shareholder meeting season is upon us, the final tactic mentioned above deserves more attention. www.Proxyreview.org, a group of about 20 asset management firms, pension funds and high-net-worth individuals organized by [As You Sow](#) has filed 421 shareholder resolutions with 267 companies ([Download the list here](#)). Of these filings, 26 percent focus on disclosure of political and nonprofit contributions. While this type of resolution is almost never successful, each resolution's defeat is followed by a letter writing campaign to company executives paired with a social media pressure campaign by third-party groups. Disclosure and transparency is a good thing when it is the end goal. In this case, however, the goal is to scrutinize corporate participation with free market and business groups to ultimately chill speech and association.

Other campaigns to chill free speech come in the form of letters from Congress. As you remember, in 2013, Senator Dick Durbin sent a letter demanding companies indicate their support for ALEC. Ultimately, the 2013 letter was positive for ALEC as it allowed us to regain control of the narrative and highlight that 501(c)3 donor information is legally protected by Supreme Court case law (*NAACP v. Alabama*, 1957).

Several weeks ago, Senators Boxer, Markey and Whitehouse sent a letter to more than 100 companies and organizations demanding they disclose funding of research related to climate change denial. It didn't take long for other members of the Senate Committee on the Environment and Public Works to quickly respond with a [letter refuting the demands of the minority members](#). That notwithstanding, ALEC has funded no scientific research on the issues in the original demand letter, but I am heartened that members of Congress are not letting this type of political intimidation stand.

If you are interested in more information on these issues, please reach out to Vice President of Public Affairs Bill Meierling at wmeierling@alec.org.

I look forward to seeing you at ALEC meetings in Savannah, San Diego and Scottsdale this year to work on free market policy and celebrate our mutual success.

Sincerely,

Lisa B. Nelson
Chief Executive Officer
American Legislative Exchange Council

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Subject: ALEC Digital Exchange 03-26-2015

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ALEC Weighs in on Proposed NAAQS Revision

ALEC has submitted a [public comment](#) expressing significant concerns with the EPA's plan to revise the existing National Ambient Air Quality Standard (NAAQS) for ozone from 75 parts per billion (ppb) to a level between 60 and 70 ppb. EPA's proposed revision will likely lead to significant problems including rising electricity costs, losses in economic productivity, increased unemployment, electric grid reliability concerns and more.

[Read more about EPA's proposed ozone NAAQS revision here.](#)

Spring Task Force Summit Submission Deadline: March 31

Remember to submit any policies for discussion at the 2015 Spring Task Force Summit to the appropriate task force director by NEXT TUESDAY, March 31.

[View the preliminary agenda here.](#)



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American Legislative Exchange Council in the News

[Ohio Senate Works to Rein in Closed-Door Deals with Private Attorneys](#) - *American Legislator*

[Conservative States Flourish As Liberal States in Deep Recession](#) - *Live Leak*

[Cuomo's Zippy TV Ads Belie New York's Dismal State](#) - *Newsmax*

[Indiana Leads the Way in STEM Education](#) - *American Legislator*

[Momentum grows in Missouri to block local business regulations](#) - *St. Louis Post-Dispatch*

[Secretive 'bill mill' gets local foothold](#) - *Indianapolis Business Journal*

[Right-to-work would work in W.Va.](#) - *The Charleston Gazette*

[Right-to-work policy is best for West Virginia workers](#) - *Herald-Dispatch*

[Civil forfeiture assumes guilt](#) - *The Baltimore Sun*

[States urged to call for convention to amend U.S. Constitution](#) - *The Kansas City Star*


[Ohio Senate OKs cap on contingency fees to outside lawyers](#) - *The Columbus Dispatch*

[The Renewable Energy Fight](#) - *National Journal*

[ALEC Weighs in on Proposed Ozone NAAQS Revision](#) - *American Legislator*

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To: Rep93
Subject: ALEC Events and Education 03-24-2015

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ALEC Weighs in on Proposed NAAQS Revision


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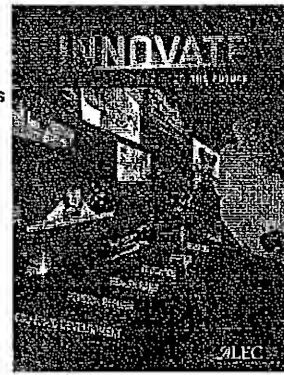
Innovate: Policy for the Future

Hardworking taxpayers deserve a government that respects and protects their time and money.

As legislatures set their 2015 priorities, commitment to measurable success and investment in a healthy economy should be the top goals.

Innovate: Policy for the Future offers solutions that cut red tape and promote economic growth and competition.

Download Innovate: Policy for the Future here.



ALEC Website: Clean Power Plan Facts

The ALEC Task Force on Energy, Environment and Agriculture has released a website revealing the extent to which the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's proposed Clean Power Plan will affect electricity generation in the states.

EPA-Projected Coal Capacity Retirements Under IT(d) Proposal* (2016-2020).



The website contains an interactive map detailing which fossil fuel-fired power plants in each state EPA expects to retire by 2020 as a result of the proposed rule and other environmental regulations.

Finally, comments submitted to EPA during the prescribed comment period by state policymakers (e.g., governors, attorneys general, environmental agencies, and public utilities commissions) have been compiled and classified as either generally supporting the proposed rule as written or those expressing significant concerns.

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Rep93

From: Sarah McManamon <SMcManamon@alec.org>
Sent: Monday, March 23, 2015 2:02 PM
To: Rep93
Subject: No time to register for the ALEC Summit? We can help!



Here at the American Legislative Exchange Council (ALEC), we understand that your time is valuable and there are never enough hours in the day.

We want to help!

If you're planning to attend the Spring Task Force Summit, but haven't yet registered, just give us a call! We will take care of everything for you over the phone in under 5 minutes.

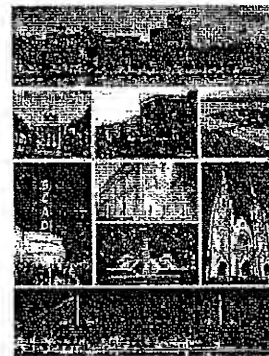
Register for the Summit in these 3 easy steps:

1. Have your credit card on hand
2. Call 571-482-5051 (No answer? We're probably helping someone on the other line. Leave a message and we will call you back.)
3. Answer a few questions

That's it! We will take care of the rest - including booking your hotel room and emailing you your confirmations.

Don't wait to call - Early Bird Rates end in 3 WEEKS!

Get more information by visiting our site <http://www.alec.org/stfs/>



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Sarah McManamon | SMcManamon@alec.org | ALEC | 2900 Crystal Drive, 6th Floor |
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Rep93

From: American Legislative Exchange Council <avarner@alec.org>
Sent: Thursday, March 19, 2015 12:01 PM
To: Rep93
Subject: ALEC Digital Exchange 03-19-2015

To view this email as a web page, go [here](#).

ALEC is partnering with the State Policy Network and the Foundation for Government Accountability TODAY -- Thursday, March 19 at 5:00 PM ET -- to host a critical, national **conference call for state legislators**. Featuring congressional, state and national think-tank leaders, the call will focus on strategies and solutions for policymakers to respond to the potential ruling in *King v. Burwell*.

King v. Burwell, argued earlier this month before the Supreme Court, challenges the Internal Revenue Service rule providing federal subsidies and related penalties to the 37 states with a federal exchange. A decision is expected by late June, and **should the Supreme Court overturn subsidies for federal exchange enrollees, attention will immediately turn to the states and Congress for a viable path forward.**

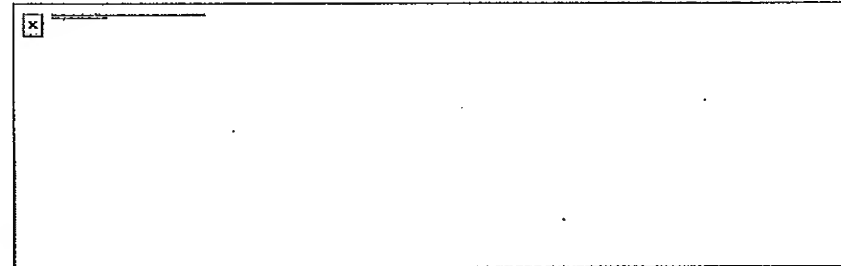
When: TODAY -- Thursday, March 19, 5:00 PM ET
Speakers: Congressman Paul Ryan, Wisconsin
State Senator Brian Kelsey, Tennessee
Tarren Bragdon, CEO, Foundation for Government Accountability

To participate in today's conference call, [please register here](#).

Spring Task Force Summit Submission Deadline: March 31

Remember to submit any policies for discussion at the 2015 Spring Task Force Summit to the appropriate task force director by Tuesday, March 31.

[View the preliminary agenda here.](#)



Record Registration: Host Hotel Close to Capacity

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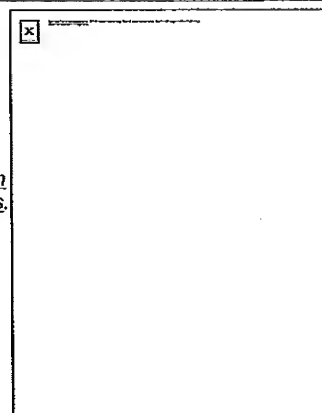
Early Bird Registration ends April 17. [Register today to get your best price.](#)

NEW Report Available: Solar Power in the U.S.

Citizen's Alliance for Responsible Energy (CARE) recently released a white paper examining the impacts of solar power on the nation's electricity consumers: [*Solar Power in the U.S.: Lessons Learned and Guidance for Policymakers*](#).

With solar becoming the fastest growing source of electricity, CARE hopes the report will provide policymakers with all the facts about solar, both good and bad.

Download [*Solar Power in the U.S.: Lessons Learned and Guidance for Policymakers*](#) , here.



American Legislative Exchange Council in the News

[On Saint Patrick's Day, the U.S. Has Much to Learn From Ireland - RedState](#)

[Expanding Internet Access Through Innovation in the Private Sector - American Legislator](#)

[Soon-to-open Flex Academy excites some, raises eyebrows in others - Minneapolis Post](#)

[Strengthening the U.S.-Israel Economic and Strategic Partnership - American Legislator](#)

[Fair and Open Pipe Procurement - Public Works](#)

[Senators disagree on productivity of session - Charleston Daily Mail](#)

[Why the Country is Turning Against Unions - Daily Signal](#)

[Upping fed share of state revenues contradictory - Clarion-Ledger](#)

[Right to Work Creates Two Americas--One Is More Prosperous - National Review](#)

[Utah Legislature Passes Comprehensive Criminal Justice Reform - American Legislator](#)

[Are Teachers' Unions Community Organizing Our Kids Under the Guise of Common Core Opposition? - PJ Media](#)

[The Organization of Women in International Trade \(OWIT\) -- House Local Chapters Play a Role in Economic Development - American Legislator](#)

[The Article V Convention: The Other Way to Pass a Balanced Budget Amendment - RedState](#)

[Iowa Coalition: Reform Pensions Now, Avoid Pension Problems Later - Heartland Institute](#)

[Bill to weaken renewable energy standards came from ALEC - Boulder Weekly](#)

[Groundwater Regulations Stays with States - Heartland Institute](#)

[Right-to-Work Zones: Key to Prosperity for Illinois or Rauner's Pipe Dream? - Reboot Illinois](#)

[Great Scott! - CBN](#)

[Freedom not to choose - Heritage Foundation](#)

[Targeting Unions: Right-to-Work Movement Bolstered by Wisconsin - National Public Radio](#)

[Bill would curtail bargaining power of public sector unions in Kansas - The Wichita Eagle](#)

ALEC Task Force Tours and Membership Activities

This week, the Center for State Fiscal Reform is touring the Northwest for a variety of issue briefings and membership events:

On Monday, the Center for State Fiscal Reform hosted a *Rich States, Poor States* reception in Oregon.

On Tuesday, Jonathan Williams - Senior Director of the Center for State Fiscal Reform - gave a tax and fiscal issue briefing for lawmakers in Idaho.

ALEC held a membership reception in Washington State on Wednesday, where Jonathan Williams also gave a fiscal policy presentation to Washington state senators.

This evening, Montana members are holding an ALEC membership dinner with the Center for State Fiscal Reform. Tomorrow, Montana lawmakers will receive a *Rich States, Poor States* policy briefing.

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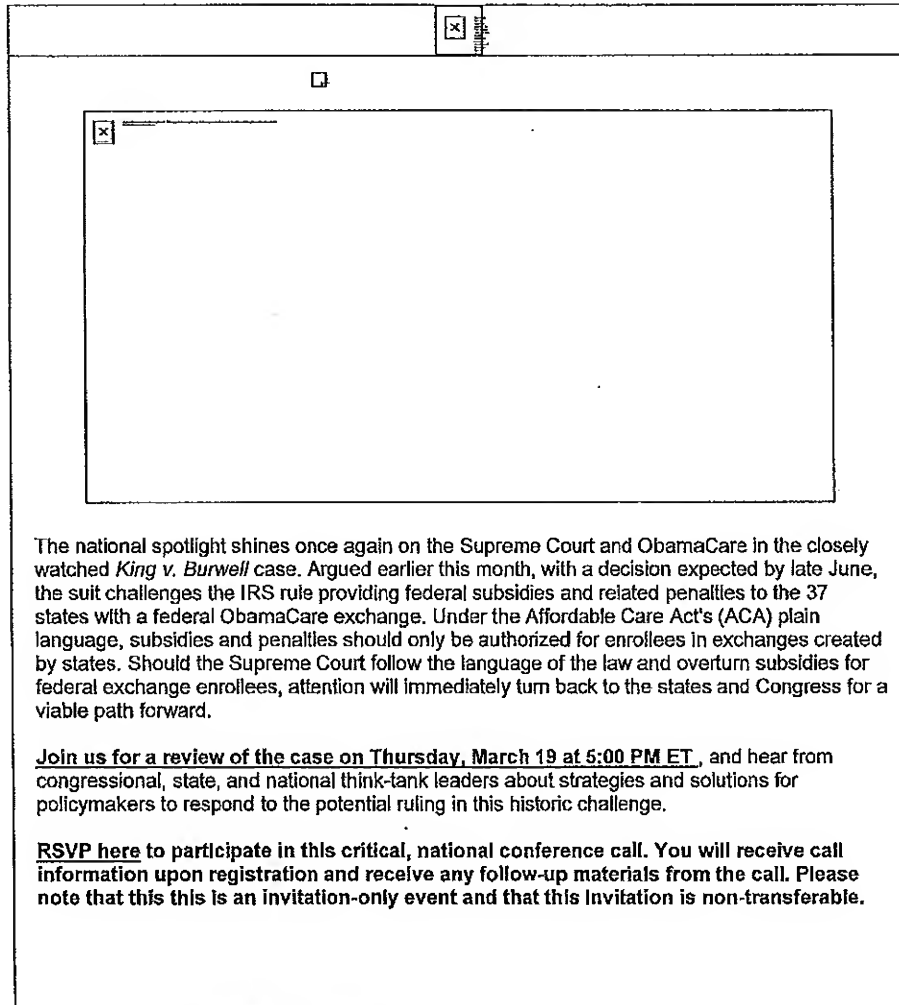
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Rep93

From: American Legislative Exchange Council <avamer@alec.org>
Sent: Wednesday, March 18, 2015 3:02 PM
To: Rep93
Subject: Reminder: King v. Burwell Conference Call with Paul Ryan

To view this email as a web page, go [here](#).



The national spotlight shines once again on the Supreme Court and ObamaCare in the closely watched *King v. Burwell* case. Argued earlier this month, with a decision expected by late June, the suit challenges the IRS rule providing federal subsidies and related penalties to the 37 states with a federal ObamaCare exchange. Under the Affordable Care Act's (ACA) plain language, subsidies and penalties should only be authorized for enrollees in exchanges created by states. Should the Supreme Court follow the language of the law and overturn subsidies for federal exchange enrollees, attention will immediately turn back to the states and Congress for a viable path forward.

Join us for a review of the case on Thursday, March 19 at 5:00 PM ET, and hear from congressional, state, and national think-tank leaders about strategies and solutions for policymakers to respond to the potential ruling in this historic challenge.

RSVP here to participate in this critical, national conference call. You will receive call information upon registration and receive any follow-up materials from the call. Please note that this is an invitation-only event and that this invitation is non-transferable.

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Rep93

From: American Legislative Exchange Council <avarner@alec.org>
Sent: Tuesday, March 17, 2015 12:01 PM
To: Rep93
Subject: ALEC Events and Education 03-17-2015

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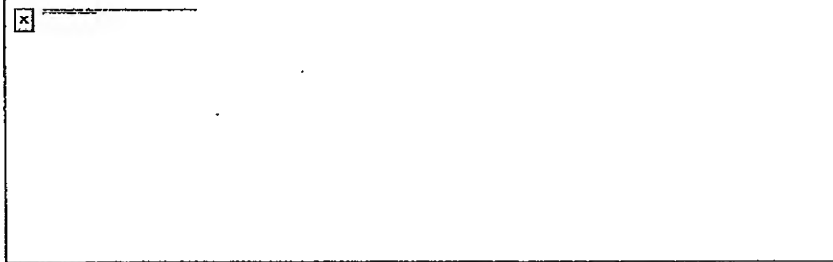
When: Thursday, March 19, 5:00 PM ET
Speakers: Congressman Paul Ryan, Wisconsin
State Senator Brian Kelsey, Tennessee
Taren Bragdon, CEO, Foundation for Government Accountability

To participate in this conference call, [please register here](#).

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[View the preliminary agenda here.](#)



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ICYMI - Webinar Series: The Past, Present and Future of Common Core

The Task Force on Education conducted a three-part webinar series, The Past, Present and Future of Common Core. [View and share the webinars here:](#)

[*The Past of Common Core - A Timeline*](#)

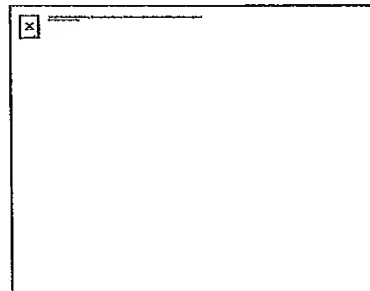
[*The Present of Common Core - Virginia and Florida*](#)

[*The Future of Common Core*](#)



New Report Available - American Gas Association

The [American Gas Association 2015 Playbook](#) covers the history of natural gas, the challenges and opportunities of the natural gas industry, and the priority issues and strategies with respect to the production, transmission, distribution, and use of America's clean and domestically abundant energy sources.



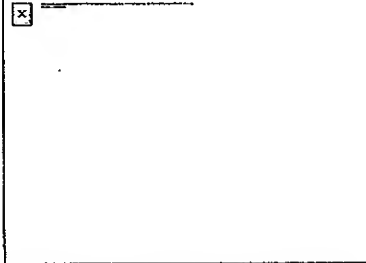
[Download the American Gas Association 2015 Playbook here.](#)

NEW Resource: Clean Power Plan Facts

This week, the ALEC Task Force on Energy, Environment and Agriculture [released a website](#) revealing the extent to which the [U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's proposed Clean Power Plan](#) will affect electricity generation in the states.

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

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From: American Legislative Exchange Council <avarnier@alec.org>
Sent: Friday, March 13, 2015 12:01 PM
To: Rep93
Subject: Invitation: Conference Call with Paul Ryan on King v. Burwell

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The national spotlight shines once again on the Supreme Court and ObamaCare in the closely watched *King v. Burwell* case. Argued last Wednesday, with a decision expected by late June, the suit challenges the IRS rule providing federal subsidies and related penalties to the 37 states with a federal ObamaCare exchange. Under the Affordable Care Act's (ACA) plain language, subsidies and penalties should only be authorized for enrollees in exchanges created by states. Should the Supreme Court follow the language of the law and overturn subsidies for federal exchange enrollees, attention will immediately turn back to the states and Congress for a viable path forward.

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
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From: American Legislative Exchange Council <avamer@alec.org>
Sent: Thursday, March 12, 2015 12:02 PM
To: Rep93
Subject: ALEC Digital Exchange 03-12-2015


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2015 Annual ALEC Leadership and Performance Survey

If you haven't filled out the [anonymous survey](#), please take a few moments to do so now.



NEXT THURSDAY: Conference Call for State Legislators with Congressman Paul Ryan on King v. Burwell

ALEC is partnering with the State Policy Network and the Foundation for Government Accountability next Thursday, March 19 at 5:00 PM ET to host a critical, national conference call for state legislators. Featuring congressional, state and national think-tank leaders, the call will focus on strategies and solutions for policymakers to respond to the potential ruling in *King v. Burwell*.

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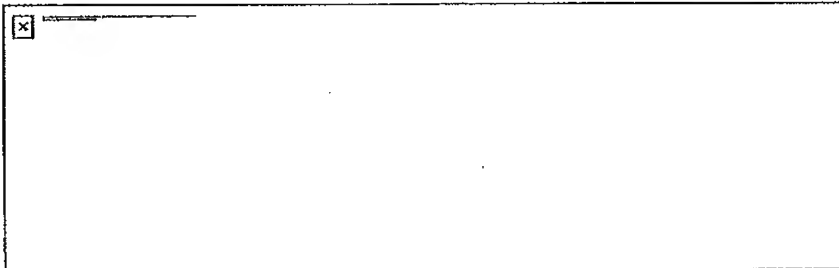
When: Thursday, March 19, 5:00 PM ET
Speakers: Congressman Paul Ryan, Wisconsin
State Senator Brian Kelsey, Tennessee
Tarren Bragdon, CEO, Foundation for Government Accountability

To participate in this conference call, [please register here](#).

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Contact your task force director with any questions.



Register Today for the May 15 Spring Task Force Summit

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View the Preliminary Agenda here.

Continued Coverage of ALEC and SiX

Taking the Fight for the Middle Class to the states - Roll Call

Fisher attends DC event by progressive anti-ALEC group - Citizen-Times

Obama White House try to reverse GOP takeover of state-level government - HotAir

Democrats Huddle in Bid to Reverse GOP State Dominance - Newsmax

Weinberg helps to counter corporate-funded group - NJ.com

Mich.'s Senate Dem Leader to attend White House summit - The Detroit News

White House, Elizabeth Warren team up to roll back GOP state dominance - Politico

American Legislative Exchange Council in the News

South Dakota Legislature Moves to Reform Juvenile Justice System - American Legislator

Wisconsin Marks the 25th Right-to-Work State - American Legislator

Right to Work: Growing National Momentum Highlighted in New Mexico Senate Hearing - International Business Times

West Virginia considering charter schools bill - Education Dive

Poor business climate adds up to a crummy economy - Pittsburgh Tribune

What if states just say 'no' to climate change? - The Hill

ALEC scores win against Clean Power Plan in W. Va. - Governors/ Wind Energy Coalition

Scott Walker takes on unions again - Politico

To Appreciate Public Sector Employees, Allow Them to Decide Union Membership and Representation - American Legislator

Legislator files bill to help coal company - his recent boss - Alaska Dispatch News

ALEC leader meets with Utah leaders, U. students - Salt Lake Tribune

USDA Data Highlight Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP) Benefit to the States - American Legislator

Better than best? - The Star Democrat

Scott Walker Rides National Anti-Labor Union Trend - Newsmax

GOP rejects Dems resolution for Walker to apologize - Wisconsin Radio Network

Legislative Pulse: Arkansas - Heartland Institute

Rauner's long shot: Right-to-work zones - Illinois Times

The Right-to-Work Advantage - The Wall Street Journal

Conservative group brings arguments against Medicaid expansion to Alaska - Alaska Dispatch News

Regulating Like Its 1934: The FCC's Decision to Reclassify the Internet as a Public Utility - American Legislator

Solar power battle in Florida makes strange bedfellows - The Miami Herald

Florida DEP says Legislature will get shot at state carbon plan - Saint Petersburg

CLIMATE: Ky. regulators walk tightrope on Clean Power Plan - EnergyWire

Mitch McConnell Is Now Telling States To Ignore Obama's Climate Rules - Mother Jones

ALEC Task Force Tours and Membership Activities

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
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
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From: American Legislative Exchange Council <avarner@alec.org>
Sent: Tuesday, March 10, 2015 12:31 PM
To: Rep93
Subject: ALEC Events and Education 03-10-2015

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The Case for ALEC - POLITICO

Ken Vogel of *POLITICO* reports that State Innovation Exchange (SiX) members met with the Administration and other progressive leaders last week in Washington. SiX states their goal is a long-game focused on 2020 redistricting and long term control of the states and Congress.

[Read the article here.](#)

ALEC support of free markets is fundamental to the American way of life: protecting hardworking taxpayers and creating efficient, effective and accountable state government.

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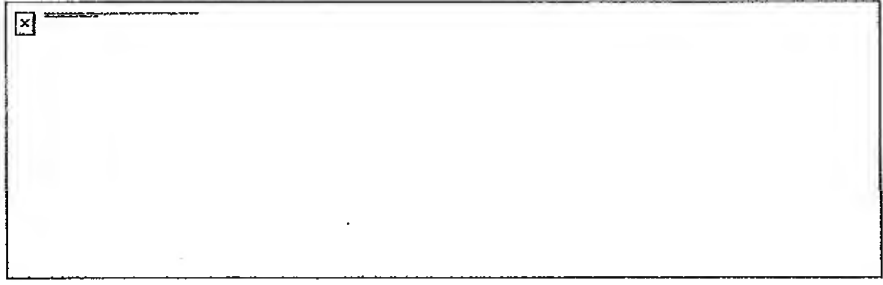
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ICYMI - Webinar Series: The Past, Present and Future of Common Core

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You can view and share the webinars here:

The Past of Common Core - A Timeline

The Present of Common Core - Virginia and Florida

The Future of Common Core





In response to the Nevada Supreme Court's ruling in *Sadler v. PacifiCare of Nevada, Inc.*, Mark A. Behrens and Christopher E. Appel of Shook, Hardy & Bacon L.L.P.'s Public Policy Group authored a legal opinion letter discussing how the state's highest court expands a plaintiff's ability to recover the costs of future testing for injuries from which they are not suffering.

Lower courts' application of the Supreme Court decision could place limits on the wide-open rule.

[Continue reading to learn more.](#)

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Rep93


From: American Legislative Exchange Council <avarner@alec.org>
Sent: Thursday, March 05, 2015 12:02 PM
To: Rep93
Subject: The Case for ALEC - ALEC Digital Exchange 03-05-2015

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The Case for ALEC - Politico



In today's *POLITICO*, Ken Vogel reports that State Innovation Exchange (SiX) members are in Washington this week meeting with the Administration and other progressive leaders. They see the series of meetings as a coming out party, much like when President Reagan validated ALEC in the 1980s. Additionally, SiX clearly states their goal is a long-game focused on 2020 redistricting and long term control of the states and Congress.

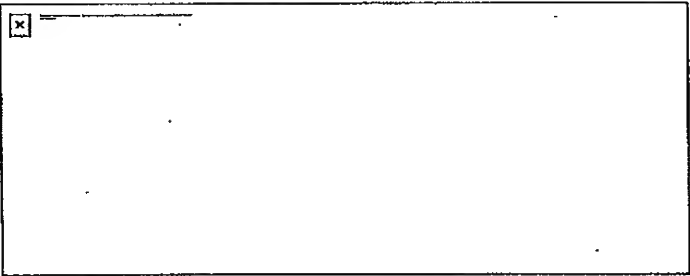

Democracy Alliance President Gara LaMarche: "We need to invest more heavily in the vital infrastructure at the state and municipal level which is key to any progressive future and where the right has made startling gains."

ALEC's work in support of free markets is fundamental to the American way of life. Our work, goals, members and mission are too important to let the national conversation stray from what is most important: protecting hardworking taxpayers and creating efficient, effective and accountable state government.

Read the article here: <http://www.politico.com/story/2015/03/white-house-elizabeth-warren-reach-out-to-state-governments-115782.html>

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The Past, Present and Future of Common Core, Part 3

The Future of Common Core

In January, the Task Force on Education conducted a three-part webinar series, The Past, Present and Future of Common Core. The webinars provided an informational forum to learn more about Common Core in a neutral environment.

The final installment of the webinar series focused on the future of the Common Core across America. Fredrick Hess, Resident Scholar and Director of Education Policy Studies at the American Enterprise Institute, gave the final keynote. Hess's presentation posed and answered six questions that address what may happen to Common Core in the 2015 state legislative sessions and beyond.



NEW Website: Clean Power Plan Facts

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American Legislative Exchange Council in the News

[Can Labor Survive the Nevada GOP? - National Journal](#)

[Pennsylvania Governor Reinstates State park, Forest Fracking Ban - Heartland Institute](#)

[Wisconsin going 'right to work': What's the impact for jobs and incomes? - Christian Science Monitor](#)

[After 12 hours of testimony, rancor remains in right-to-work debate - Wisconsin Reporter](#)

[Fracking Wins Again in Colorado - Heartland Institute](#)

[Debate over Ohio's shift from income tax to sales tax continues - The Columbus Dispatch](#)

[Green Slander: The Attacks on Climate Scientists - Heartland Institute](#)

[NERA: EPA Ozone NAAQS Regulation Could Cost \\$140 Billion per Year - American Legislator](#)

[FCC Opposes ALEC Proposal and Hurts the Broadband Economy and Consumers - American Legislator](#)

['Strong Roots Nebraska' Plan Would Boost Economic Outlook - American Legislator](#)

[With Declining Recidivism Rates, South Carolina Closes Minimum Security Prison - American Legislator](#)

[ALEC Comments on FCC Vote on Municipal Broadband - American Legislator](#)

[Administration, States Establish Special Open Enrollment Period - American Legislator](#)

[ALEC Responds to Right-Wing Conspiracy Claims - The Daily Caller](#)

[Gov. Scott Walker Goes Head-to-Head With Labor Over Right-to-Work - National Public Radio](#)

[Right-to-Work: the ultimate lost cause for Wisconsin unions - Milwaukee Journal Sentinel](#)

[I beg your pardon, governor - we never promised you a rose garden - Cranston Herald](#)

[Supreme Court rules in *Yates v. United States* - American Legislator](#)

[New Website Launch: How the EPA's Clean Power Plan Proposal Will Affect the States - American Legislator](#)

[Florida Governor Rick Scott Proposes \\$470 Million in Communications Services Tax Relief - American Legislator](#)

[The Past, Present and Future of Common Core Part 2 - American Legislator](#)

ALEC Task Force Tours and Membership Activities

On Wednesday, Senior Director of the Center for State Fiscal Reform Jonathan Williams gave a *Rich States, Poor States* presentation to ALEC members in South Carolina.

Today, Jonathan Williams and ALEC CEO Lisa B. Nelson are holding a *Rich States, Poor States* event with lawmakers in Utah.

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Rep93

From: American Legislative Exchange Council <avarner@alec.org>
Sent: Tuesday, March 03, 2015 12:01 PM
To: Rep93
Subject: ALEC Events and Education 03-03-2015

To view this email as a web page, go [here](#).




Register Now for the Spring Task Force Summit, May 15

Early Bird Registration ends April 17.

Register today and make your plans to join ALEC members in Savannah, GA.

Book your hotel room online here.

View the Preliminary Agenda here.




The Past, Present and Future of Common Core, Part 3

The Future of Common Core

In January, the Task Force on Education conducted a three-part webinar series, **The Past, Present and Future of Common Core**. The webinars provided an informational forum to learn more about Common Core in a neutral environment.

The final installment of the webinar series **focused on the future of the Common Core across America**. Fredrick Hess, Resident Scholar and Director of Education Policy Studies at the American Enterprise Institute, gave the final keynote. Hess's presentation posed and answered six questions that address what may happen to Common Core in the 2015 state legislative sessions and beyond.



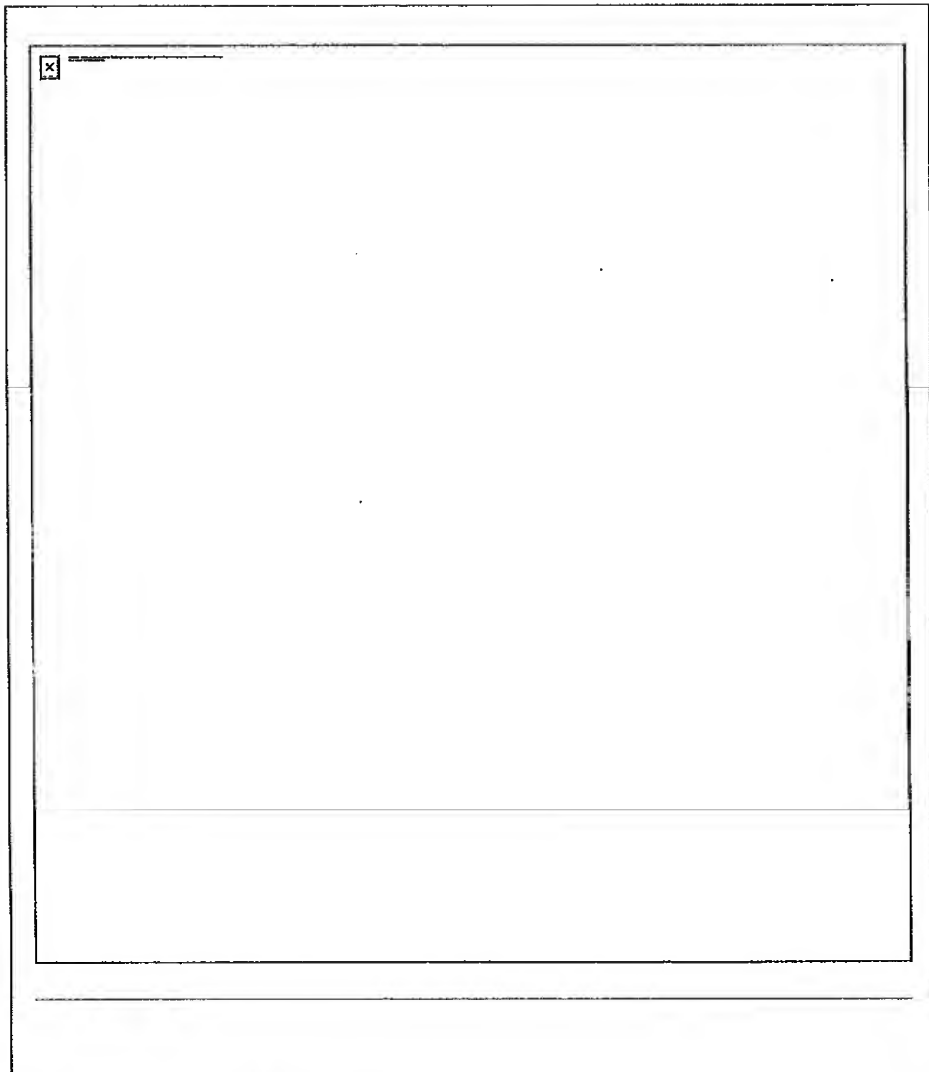


NEW Resource: Clean Power Plan Facts

The ALEC Task Force on Energy, Environment and Agriculture has released a website revealing the extent to which the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's proposed Clean Power Plan will affect electricity generation in the states.

The website contains an interactive map detailing which fossil fuel-fired power plants in each state EPA expects to retire by 2020 as a result of the proposed rule and other environmental regulations.

Finally, comments submitted to EPA during the prescribed comment period by state policymakers (e.g., governors, attorneys general, environmental agencies, and public utilities commissions) have been compiled and classified as either generally supporting the proposed rule as written or those expressing significant concerns.



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
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

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Rep93

From: American Legislative Exchange Council <avarnier@alec.org>
Sent: Thursday, February 26, 2015 12:01 PM
To: Rep93
Subject: ALEC Digital Exchange 02-26-2015

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NEW: Clean Power Plan Facts

The ALEC Task Force on Energy, Environment and Agriculture has [released a website](#) regarding how the [U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's proposed Clean Power Plan](#) will affect electricity generation in the states, including an interactive [map](#) detailing which fossil fuel-fired power plants in each state EPA expects to retire by 2020 as a result of the proposed rule and other environmental regulations.

U.S. News and World Report - ALEC Wins Big in Ethics Case

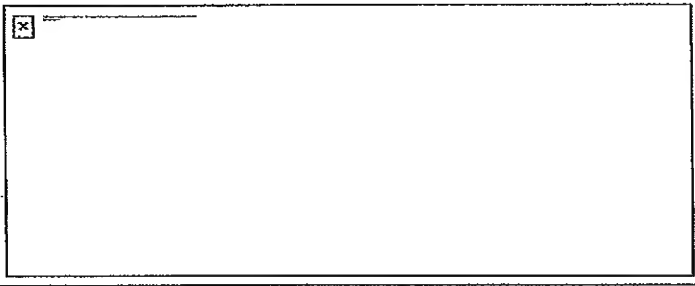

"The beleaguered but battling-back American Legislative Exchange Council has won a major victory in the state of Minnesota that may force its opponents to rewrite the narrative they have been using the try to destroy it.

"In a victory for ALEC - and for the right of all Americans under the First Amendment - the Minnesota Campaign finance and Public Disclosure Board exonerated the group of any wrongdoing in what has been one of the longest running ethics complains in the history of the state."

[Read the full story from U.S. News and World Report here.](#)

2015 Annual ALEC Leadership and Performance Survey

If you haven't [filled out the anonymous survey](#), please take a few moments to do so now.





Register Today for the May 15 Spring Task Force Summit

The Summit is a one-day meeting that brings together ALEC Task Force members to exchange policy proposals and catch up with their counterparts from across the country.

Early Bird Registration ends April 17.

Register today and make your plans to join ALEC members in Savannah, GA.

Book your hotel room online here.

View the Preliminary Agenda here.

American Legislative Exchange Council in the News

Free-market policy group to convene in Indy - Indianapolis Business Journal

Govern yourselves, state lawmakers tell cities - but not too much - New York Times

State robs low earners of opportunity - Republican American

Illinois governor takes a local approach to right-to-work - Al Jazeera

Morning briefing: Wisconsin right-to-work bill based on ALEC model legislation - The Cap Times

Scott Walker Pushes ALEC 'Right to Work' Bill, Divide and Conquer Comes Full Circle - Huffington Post Blog

Wisconsin union bill resembles that of national conservative group - Milwaukee Journal Sentinel

Right-to-work efforts winds around Great Lakes into Wisconsin - Milwaukee Journal Sentinel

Scott Walker Says He'll Sign ALEC-Echoing 'Right to Work' (for less) Legislation - The Nation

How Coal-Loving States are Waging War on Obama's New Climate Rules - Mother Jones

Walmart Recent Wage Increase a Free Market Success - American Legislator

ALEC HHS Task Force Director on the "Lars Larson Show" - American Legislator via Lars Larson

GOP-Controlled States Look to Cut Income Taxes - Newsmax

Koch brothers join up with liberals to tackle rising prison numbers - The Guardian

ALEC Task Force Tours and Membership Activities

Last weekend, ALEC CEO **Lisa B. Nelson** attended events during the National Governors Association in Washington, D.C.

Today, American City County Exchange executive director **Jon Russell** gave a presentation to attendees of the PVC Pipe Association Annual Meeting.

Today, Senior Director of Public Affairs **Bill Meierling** is participating on a communications panel at the Conservative Political Action Conference (CPAC) in Washington, D.C.

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
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Rep93

From: American Legislative Exchange Council <avarnier@alec.org>
Sent: Tuesday, February 24, 2015 12:18 PM
To: Rep93
Subject: ALEC Events and Education 02-24-2015

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The Past, Present and Future of Common Core, Part 2

'The Present of Common Core' - Virginia and Florida

In January, the Task Force on Education conducted a three-part series, **'The Past, Present and Future of Common Core.'** The webinars provided an informational forum to learn more about common core in a neutral environment.

Part two focused on the present position of Common Core in Virginia and Florida as presented by state senators from both. [The webinar is available here.](#)





Register Today for the May 15 Spring Task Force Summit

The Summit is a one-day meeting that brings together ALEC Task Force members to exchange policy proposals and catch up with their counterparts from across the country.

Early Bird Registration ends April 17.

[Register today and make your plans to join ALEC members in Savannah, GA.](#)

[Book your hotel room online here.](#)

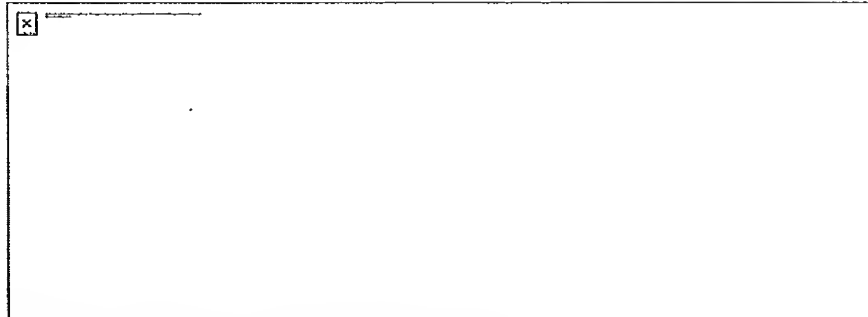
[View the Preliminary Agenda here.](#)

THIS FRIDAY: Conference Call with American Enterprise Institute

This year marks the seventh anniversary since the financial crash of 2008 that sparked the Great Recession and sent shockwaves through America. Since then, politicians, scholars, and academics alike have debated the cause of the crisis, while AEI's [Peter Wallison](#) (former counsel to the U.S. Treasury), argues that the crisis was caused by deeply flawed government housing policies.

So what can be done to prevent another crash? Financial policy expert Peter Wallison answers this and many other questions in his newest book, *Hidden in Plain Sight: What Really Caused the World's Worst Financial Crisis and Why It Could Happen Again*. Read a short question-and-answer discussion with Wallison [here](#), and [click here](#) to register for the private call on February 27.

Participants will receive a complimentary copy of *Hidden in Plain Sight*.



NEW Resource: Clean Power Plan Facts

Today, the ALEC Task Force on Energy, Environment and Agriculture [released a website](#) revealing the extent to which the [U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's proposed Clean Power Plan](#) will affect electricity generation in the states.

The website [contains an interactive map](#) detailing which fossil fuel-fired power plants in each state EPA expects to retire by 2020 as a result of the proposed rule and other environmental regulations.

Finally, [comments submitted to EPA](#) during the prescribed comment period by state policymakers (e.g., governors, attorneys general, environmental agencies, and public utilities commissions) have been compiled and classified as either generally supporting the proposed rule as written or those expressing significant concerns.



New Report Available - American Gas Association

The [American Gas Association 2015 Playbook](#) covers the history of natural gas, the challenges and opportunities of the natural gas industry, and the priority issues and strategies with respect to the production, transmission, distribution, and use of America's clean and domestically abundant energy sources.

It also contains information about innovation and direct economic benefits such as industry-related jobs.

[Download the American Gas Association 2015 Playbook here.](#)



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Rep93

From: Lisa B. Nelson <lisanelson@alec.org>
Sent: Friday, March 27, 2015 2:39 PM
To: Rep93
Subject: ALEC CEO Update

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Dear Friends,

As the first quarter of 2015 and many legislative sessions near their end, I'm pleased to share with you the rapid pace of growth taking place at ALEC. Certainly, the 2014 mid-terms had an impact on our growth potential, but I attribute legislative and business interest in this organization to a renewed clarity of mission and a focus on our members. ALEC has developed a number of new offerings through the Center for State Fiscal Reform, Center for Innovation and Technology and the Center to Restore the Balance of Government. These Centers along with community-specific affinity groups such as the **Women Legislators Caucus** are having an impact on how ALEC works with and adds value to members. As we move forward, ALEC has a clear plan of action that will lead to measurable success for the organization and members.

Already in 2015, we have welcomed more than 150 new legislators and more than a dozen private sector leaders to the ALEC family. We are also on track for one of the largest Spring Task Force Summit meetings of all time.

Today, we are in the planning and initial engagement phase for the **ALEC Women Legislators Caucus**. Led by Arizona Senator Debbie Lesko, ALEC staff and members are engaging women legislators across the United States to become part of the ALEC family. Of the 1,700 women state legislators in the United States, 236 are ALEC members. By the end of 2015, we will recruit an additional 100 legislators to the **ALEC Women Legislators Caucus**.

The **ALEC Women Legislators Caucus** will support women legislators at ALEC, encourage all women to participate in the political process and identify and cultivate future women leaders. The goal of the Caucus is simple: encourage exchange of idea, foster mentorship and develop long-lasting friendship. As the Caucus grows, we will develop a network where women legislators can discuss issues and messaging, learn from other successful women leaders in business and government, and develop networks to address challenges in life and in legislatures around the country.

In the coming months, look for more announcements and media like this piece in Independent Women's Forum regarding the Caucus. There will also be a special event at the Annual Meeting in San Diego.

Just last week, I traveled to Austin, Texas to meet with legislative leaders, state executives and entrepreneurs about threats to the business community's ability to participate in policy discussions. I found people are largely unaware of the coordinated infrastructure aimed not at creating a bright future for the American people, but focused on the destruction and disruption of our way of life. The free market is under attack by a small group of well-funded and coordinated special interests. Led by the Democracy Alliance, approximately a dozen Washington, D.C.-based organizations are pressuring state legislators and companies through grassroots organizing, social media pressure, form-letter distribution campaigns and activist shareholder resolutions.

As shareholder meeting season is upon us, the final tactic mentioned above deserves more attention. www.Proxypreview.org, a group of about 20 asset management firms, pension funds and high-net-worth individuals organized by As You Sow has filed 421 shareholder resolutions with 267 companies ([Download the list here](#)). Of these filings, 26 percent focus on disclosure of political and nonprofit contributions. While this type of resolution is almost never successful, each resolution's defeat is followed by a letter writing campaign to company executives paired with a social media pressure campaign by third-party groups. Disclosure and transparency is a good thing when it is the end goal. In this case, however, the goal is to scrutinize corporate participation with free market and business groups to ultimately chill speech and association.

Other campaigns to chill free speech come in the form of letters from Congress. As you remember, in 2013, Senator Dick Durbin sent a letter demanding companies indicate their support for ALEC. Ultimately, the 2013 letter was positive for ALEC as it allowed us to regain control of the narrative and highlight that 501(c)3 donor information is legally protected by Supreme Court case law (*NAACP v. Alabama*, 1957).

Several weeks ago, Senators Boxer, Markey and Whitehouse sent a letter to more than 100 companies and organizations demanding they disclose funding of research related to climate change denial. It didn't take long for other members of the Senate Committee on the Environment and Public Works to quickly respond with a [letter refuting the demands of the minority members](#). That notwithstanding, ALEC has funded no scientific research on the issues in the original demand letter, but I am heartened that members of Congress are not letting this type of political intimidation stand.

If you are interested in more information on these issues, please reach out to Vice President of Public Affairs Bill Meierling at wmeierling@alec.org.

I look forward to seeing you at ALEC meetings in Savannah, San Diego and Scottsdale this year to work on free market policy and celebrate our mutual success.

Sincerely,

Lisa B. Nelson
Chief Executive Officer
American Legislative Exchange Council

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From: Gongwer News Service
Sent: Wednesday, June 1, 2016 6:17 PM
To: Snider, Grace
Subject: Ohio Report, Wednesday, June 1, 2016
Attachments: Jun1.htm; Jun1Senate.htm; 160601dayplan.htm



Ohio Report for Wednesday, June 1, 2016

Mandel Announces Launch Of Tax-Advantaged Savings, Investment Accounts For People With Disabilities

Brown Touts Columbus Transportation Future As Federal Grant Is Announced For Bus Program

Restraining Order Extended In Planned Parenthood Defund; Group Reaches Settlement Over Fetal Remains

Senate, Committees Set To Return Late September

State Plans Quicker Notification For Harmful Algal Blooms

ODP Questions Trump's Support For Veterans Following Billionaire's Contentious Press Conference

Politics Notebook: ACLU Concerned With RNC Media Restrictions; Brown Talks Pensions; Portman Airs First TV Ads...

Capitol Scene: Kasich Names Kalmbach Press Secretary; Buckeye Institute Adds Research, Communications Staff

Governor's Appointments

Supplemental Agency Calendar

Supplemental Event Planner

Activity Reports

Senate

Calendars

Day Planner

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Volume #85, Report #105 -- Wednesday, June 1, 2016

Mandel Announces Launch Of Tax-Advantaged Savings, Investment Accounts For People With Disabilities

State Treasurer Josh Mandel on Wednesday announced the launch of a program enabling people living with certain disabilities to save and invest money without losing eligibility for certain public benefits programs.

Earnings from the State Treasury Achieving a Better Life Experience Accounts aren't subject to federal income tax and the money in the accounts would be exempt from state and federal means testing for programs such as Medicaid, Supplemental Security Income or Social Security Disability Insurance.

"As treasurer of Ohio I am proud to serve as administrator of STABLE Accounts," Treasurer Mandel said in a statement. "By assisting individuals and families with saving and investing, we are supporting persons with disabilities to maintain health, independence and quality of life."

Ohio is the first state to provide the accounts, which were made possible by federal legislation in 2014, according to the treasurer's office. Legislation (HB 155) signed by Gov. John Kasich last July directed the treasurer to implement the program, originally named ABLE.

The accounts are designed to help people with disabilities gain more economic opportunities without jeopardizing their eligibility for care under government programs.

"Today is a historical achievement as now ABLE accounts are a reality for all individuals with disabilities in America thanks to the hard work of so many dedicated advocates from across the US," said National Down Syndrome Society President Sara Hart Weir. "We couldn't be more proud to participate in the launch of the STABLE Accounts in Ohio."

Ohio's program is open to anyone across the country who meets eligibility requirements, though the fees are higher for people who live out-of-state. Ohio residents will pay \$2.50 per month to maintain the accounts, while residents of other states will pay \$5 per month. Ohio residents will pay an asset-based fee of between 0.19-0.34%, depending on investment options, while out-of-state residents will pay a fee between 0.45- 0.60%.

Participants can use the money from the account for qualified expenses, including education, health care, housing and transportation. Participants will be able to choose between five different investment strategies that range in risk levels, including a banking approach that offers no risk and is backed by the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation.

"Ohio, by providing these tax-advantaged savings accounts to children and adults with disabilities, has begun to pave the way for a transformative opportunity for one of our country's most disenfranchised populations," said Christopher Rodriguez, senior public policy adviser of the National Disability Institute. "The benefits of these STABLE Accounts will surely promote people with disabilities, and their families, to save for their futures and become a more significant part of the economic mainstream."

The accounts have a yearly contribution limit of \$14,000. Accounts can be set up for free on the program's website, and an initial contribution of \$50 is required.

The legislation that enabled the program passed the House and Senate unanimously last year. The bill's sponsors, Reps. Jonathan Dever (R-Cincinnati) and Margaret Condit (R-Liberty Twp.) said it would help lift people with disabilities out of poverty by allowing them to make and save more money without losing vital programs for their care. (See Gongwer Ohio Report, May 20, 2015)

Brown Touts Columbus Transportation Future As Federal Grant Is Announced For Bus Program

Federal officials were in Columbus Wednesday to announce a \$37 million grant designed to improve public transit in a corridor of Columbus.

The grant, presented by Federal Transit Administration Acting Administrator Carolyn Flowers and U.S. Sen. Sherrod Brown (D-Avon), is designed to help fund a bus rapid transit system along the Cleveland Avenue corridor in Northeast Columbus.

Sen. Brown praised the system as a way of improving access to jobs and increasing opportunities for people who use the route. The system will cut down on the time people spend waiting for buses and riding buses, he said.

"One of the beauties of doing this right in such a progressive city like Columbus is it will make people's lives better and make their time more theirs," he said.

The bus rapid transit program, known as CMAX, will stretch from downtown to Westerville, with 32 bus stops, two new park-and-ride lots and 15 new compressed natural gas buses. It is expected to launch in January 2018.

COTA President and CEO W. Curtis Stitt praised Sen. Brown for his work to maintain the level of funding for public transit programs in the latest long-term transportation authorization bill.

"Without his steadfast support, funding for this would have been impossible," Mr. Stitt said.

After the event and ceremonial grant signing, Sen. Brown said he believed the new bus line would help Columbus win the U.S. Department of Transportation's Smart City Challenge.

The Ohio Legislature last week adopted a resolution (SCR 21~~1~~) urging the DOT to ... choose Columbus. (See Gongwer Ohio Report, May 24, 2016)

Winning the Smart City Challenge, he said would be bigger than just winning \$40 million for transportation programs, he said. Columbus groups have offered an additional \$90 million in investment if Columbus, one of seven national finalists, lands the grant this summer.

"It makes us bigger as a city and as a state nationally," Sen. Brown said. "There will be all kinds of creative people in Central Ohio parlaying that into all kinds of things."

Sen. Brown also said he didn't think the CMAX program precludes Columbus from receiving funding for possible light rail programs later on.

"We're not saying no to light rail," he said. "I think that nothing's off the table."

Restraining Order Extended In Planned Parenthood Defund; Group Reaches Settlement Over Fetal Remains

Planned Parenthood scored two legal victories in recent days, including Wednesday's extension of a temporary restraining order preventing the state from defunding the organization.

The TRO extension was issued by federal Judge Michael Barrett and will remain in effect until Aug. 5. Another hearing on the matter is scheduled for Aug. 2.

Planned Parenthood cheered the ruling in a statement issued Wednesday afternoon.

"Without the action by the court today, some of Ohio's most vulnerable citizens would be left without health care options. Especially for families in underserved areas, Planned Parenthood is the only place to turn," said Iris Harvey, president and CEO of Planned Parenthood of Greater Ohio.

"Our government should be supporting programs that serve to improve the health and safety of our communities, not using Ohioans as political pawns. We want the people of Ohio to know one thing: Our doors are staying open, no matter what."

Right to Life Ohio blasted the ruling as judicial activism.

"The decision to extend the restraining order casts a light on the might and influence of Big Abortion, even in a pro-life state. Despite the will of Ohio voters, an unelected judge just halted their democratically enacted, constitutional law by another two months," spokeswoman Katherine Franklin said in a statement. "The conscience rights of all Ohioans, including pro-life Ohioans, matter. By preventing the enactment of this legislation, the judge is sending the opposite signal to half of Ohio's voters."

The defunding of the group - which would cost Planned Parenthood \$1.1 million annually in state money - was approved by lawmakers through a bill (HB 294) signed into law by Gov. John Kasich earlier this year. The cutoff was set to go into effect on May 23.

However, Judge Barrett last week initially issued a temporary restraining order through June 6, ruling the organization was likely to succeed in its lawsuit on both First Amendment and Fourteenth Amendment grounds. (See Gongwer Ohio Report, May 23, 2016)

In a separate case, the organization has reached a settlement with the Department of Health that will require the state to pay \$45,447 in attorney fees. Federal Judge Edmund A. Sargus Jr. will maintain jurisdiction over the case to ensure the settlement agreement is enforced.

The settlement stems from an investigation by Attorney General Mike DeWine that allegedly found that Planned Parenthood affiliates violated Ohio Administrative Code by handing over fetal remains to companies that dispose of them in landfills - a claim the group denied. (See Gongwer Ohio Report, December 11, 2015)

The court, however, issued a 28-day temporary restraining order against any legal action stemming from the AG's investigation into the group's abortion policies. (See Gongwer Ohio Report, December 15, 2015)

Soon after, Mr. DeWine announced that he would not enforce the "humane disposal" section of the Administrative Code while the Department of Health and General Assembly sought to further clarify the law. (See Gongwer Ohio Report, December 18, 2015)

Mr. DeWine's investigation led to a flurry of legislative activity, including a measure (HB 417) that would require the woman seeking an abortion to choose either burial or cremation. Another bill (HB 419) would require the director of the Department of Health to adopt rules requiring abortion facilities to dispose of fetal remains by burial or cremation. Similar legislation (SB 254) was introduced in and recently cleared the Senate.

Senate, Committees Set To Return Late September

The Senate and its committees are set to return to Columbus in late September, according to a schedule released by the chamber on Wednesday.

Senate President Keith Faber (R-Celina) has set session and committee dates on September 27, 28 and 29, followed by meetings on October 4, 5 and 6.

The chamber could then return to action after the November election, with if-needed dates set for November 9 and 10.

Dates are also scheduled for November 15, 16, 22 (if needed), 29 and 30.

The chamber is set for session and committee dates on December 1, 6, 7 and 8, with if-needed sessions on the 13th, 14th, 15th and 28th.

The House last week released its schedule for the remainder of the year, with the calendar showing as many as eight session dates. None of the dates on the House schedule are before the election. (See Gongwer Ohio Report, May 27, 2016)

State Plans Quicker Notification For Harmful Algal Blooms

State agencies have retooled their approach to public outreach efforts when it comes to harmful algal blooms in the state's recreational waterways.

The Ohio Environmental Protection Agency and the departments of Health and Natural Resources, in a joint announcement, recently outlined a new strategy to increase awareness among citizens before they enter the water.

As part of the plan, the state will be quicker in issuing public health advisories by basing those alerts solely on the levels of harmful algal bloom toxins, such as microcystin, ODH Medical Director Mary DiOrio said.

Advisories were previously declared only following documented health issues thought to be caused by algal toxins.

"As we continue to better understand harmful algal blooms and the toxins they may produce, we have eliminated the previous requirement for a probable case of an algal bloom-related human illness or a pet death before issuing an elevated recreational public health advisory," Dr. DiOrio said.

In addition to faster public warnings, the state will rely on a website to provide a roundup of ongoing advisories and other pertinent data.

"We are encouraging people to 'know before you go' by checking our BeachGuard website," Dr. DiOrio said. "BeachGuard lists any recreational public health advisories and water quality data for some toxins and E. coli bacteria for Ohio state park lake beaches and boat ramps as well as participating non-state public and private beaches."

Another key component of the new awareness effort is a revamped signage system. A white sign will be posted at all state park beaches and boat ramps, describing the appearance of algal blooms and instructing visitors to be on the lookout.

If an algal bloom is confirmed or when toxin levels are equal to or exceed the designated threshold - six parts per billion for microcystin - orange "warning" signs will be added to the white signs. These signs will state swimming and wading are not recommended for children, pregnant or nursing women, those with certain medical conditions, and pets.

A red "danger" sign will be added if and when algal toxin levels are equal to or exceed a designated threshold - 20 parts per billion for microcystin. That sign will confirm unsafe toxin levels have been detected and instruct visitors to avoid contact with the water.

The agencies are encouraging non-state public and private waters to also adopt the new strategy.

The announcement follows OEPA's recent unveiling of draft phosphorus reduction targets in Lake Erie, which could help reduce such blooms. The plan is part of a multi-state, binational agreement to lower phosphorus levels by 40% by 2025. (See Gongwer Ohio Report, May 26, 2016)

But Ohio Environmental Council Clean Water Director Adam Rissien has since said the plan doesn't go far enough in curbing runoff pollution from agriculture companies which can feed algae growth.

"Certainly the plan demonstrates a strong commitment to reduce toxic algae, but in order to ensure its success, further action is necessary," Mr. Rissien said. "Real progress requires policies for widespread adoption of conservation practices and proper applications of fertilizer and manure."

OEPA Director Craig Butler and the Army Corps of Engineers, meanwhile, have sparred in recent months over the potential existence of a "toxic blob" in Lake Erie. Although the OEPA says water sampling "clearly shows" the blob's existence, the Corps insists "no credible scientific evidence supports" that idea. (See Gongwer Ohio Report, May 6, 2016)

ODP Questions Trump's Support For Veterans Following Billionaire's Contentious Press Conference

The Ohio Democratic Party's chairman labeled Donald Trump a "fraud" who is "using veterans as a prop" a day after the billionaire sought to satiate questions of whether he had fulfilled promised donations to veterans groups.

Chairman David Pepper and retired Army Capt. Paul Worley, chair of the ODP veterans' caucus, added their voices to those criticizing the GOP presumptive nominee following Mr. Trump's press conference Tuesday in Trump Tower.

During that press conference, Mr. Trump outlined how he had donated the \$5.6 million raised by a January fundraiser he organized to compete with a Fox News presidential debate.

After the fundraiser, Mr. Trump repeatedly told media and supporters he had raised more than \$6 million from the event. But media reports - including a May 24 report from the *Washington Post* - continued to show that about half that money had not been donated.

Mr. Trump responded this week, outlining how much money had been sent to which groups. Several of those checks - including a \$1 million donation from Mr. Trump that he claimed to have made previously - were written last week, the same day the billionaire was interviewed by the *Post* on the fundraising discrepancy, according to the Associated Press.

"I think over the course of (yesterday) and today we've learned the truth: that Donald Trump is a fraud whose only concern is what's in it for him," Mr. Pepper said in a media call hosted by the Democratic National Committee.

"In this case it's clear that veterans were nothing more than a prop for Donald Trump when he needed them...and he only actually paid up what he said he'd already paid when called on it later," Mr. Pepper continued. "All this shows Donald Trump is not fit to be president."

Mr. Trump attributed the delay in issuing the checks to the process of vetting the various charities. He did not explain the discrepancy between the \$5.6 million figure and his previous claims to have raised more than \$6 million. He said veterans were greatly pleased by his contribution and support.

"I have raised a tremendous amount of money for the vets," Mr. Trump said. "I have been thanked by so many veterans groups throughout the United States."

He made additional headlines Tuesday for the combative nature of his press conference, during which he blasted the media - calling one reporter "a sleaze" - and said he would continue that contentious relationship with the media if elected president.

Mr. Worley, an Adams County commissioner who served three tours in Iraq and Afghanistan, questioned Mr. Trump's leadership following the candidate's early criticism of Sen. John McCain for being captured as a prisoner of war and for his conflicting statements on the permissibility of torture.

"Trump is a classic example of someone who will promise things - say he's doing things for veterans - but will turn around and not follow through on his promises," Mr. Worley said. "He is not a leader that cares about people. He only cares about himself."

During Mr. Trump's press conference, 22-year retired Marine and New Hampshire State Rep. Al Baldasaro shot back against claims Mr. Trump doesn't support veterans.

"I would never in a million years put my name on a candidate who did not from his heart look me in the eye and tell me he is concerned about veterans," Mr. Baldasaro said, urging the media to "get your heads out of your butts and focus on the real issues."

Politics Notebook: ACLU Concerned With RNC Media Restrictions; Brown Talks Pensions; Portman Airs First TV Ads...

On Wednesday, the ACLU of Ohio voiced concerns that potential flight restrictions and new credentialing procedures will hinder media access to the Republican National Convention.

In a letter to media outlets, ACLU Legal Director Freda Levenson said, "Increased control by the government over media access at the RNC presents serious First Amendment concerns."

Journalists planning to cover the July event in Cleveland must currently be screened and credentialed by the Secret Service. And expanded use of flight restrictions could be implemented by the Federal Aviation Administration to create no-fly zones around the event.

"The new credentialing process may reduce the ability of reporters to get access to events as they unfold," Ms. Levenson wrote. "Restrictions put in place by the FAA could completely block the ability of news agencies to obtain aerial footage of the convention, protests, and the actions of law enforcement."

A day prior, Cleveland leaders announced new security plans for the event, which is expected to draw 50,000 people. Officials didn't provide specifics - saying that doing so could compromise security - but outlined the training and organizational efforts being undertaken in advance of the event.

The same day, the RNC Host Committee announced a joint beautification effort to establish "a brighter, more welcoming experience along the main pedestrian and vehicular thoroughfares in downtown Cleveland."

Pensions: U.S. Sen. Sherrod Brown (D-Ohio), while in Columbus with federal transportation officials to present a \$37 million grant to the Central Ohio Transit Authority (*see separate story*), criticized Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell (R-Kentucky) for blocking a bill Sen. Brown sponsored to shore up pension plans for miners.

Sen. Brown has been pushing for the Senate to consider the Miners Protection Act he sponsored alongside Sen. Joe Manchin (D-W.Va.) before breaking for the summer. The bill is an effort to address the shortfall in the United Mine Workers of America's 1974 pension plan, which was 94% funded before 2008 and is now severely underfunded due to the financial crisis and fewer active workers, according to Sen. Brown's office.

"One senator, the Republican leader in the Senate, has blocked the Senate from doing its job to protect these miners," Sen. Brown said.

Sen. Brown stressed the "urgent need" to address the pension shortfall in a letter to Sen. McConnell last week.

The senator also said he hoped lawmakers could work together to fix similar pension concerns faced by Teamsters.

Cincinnati Zoo: Rep. Denise Driehaus (D-Cincinnati) urged citizens to wait for independent investigations to conclude before jumping to conclusions about the recent killing of a gorilla after a 3-year-old boy entered the animal's exhibit.

A 17-year-old silverback, named Harambe, was shot and killed May 28 after the boy crawled into the exhibit and fell 15 feet into a moat separating the animals from visitors. Protestors said the gorilla appeared to be protecting the boy, although video, which does not show the entire ordeal, shows the 450-pound animals dragging the boy by the leg through the moat several times.

Protestors argue workers should have tranquilized the animal. But zoo officials contend doing so could have enraged the gorilla and that tranquilizers would take up to 10 minutes to go into effect.

In the wake of the incident, Sen. Cecil Thomas (D-Cincinnati) told the *Cincinnati Enquirer* he's looking into whether a law should be drafted to levy fines or criminal charges on one who causes the death, by their negligence, of an endangered animal.

In a statement Wednesday, Rep. Driehaus said she'd spoken "at length" with Cincinnati Zoo Director Thane Maynard and urged caution from those judging actions of zoo officials and the family involved.

"I trust the zoo officials and am confident they exercised their best professional judgment given the harrowing circumstances," Rep. Driehaus said. "Though losing Harambe is truly tragic, our community can take comfort in the fact that the zoo prevented the serious injury or death of a three-year-old child. I am thankful the zoo protected this young boy's life."

Later in the day, the *Enquirer* reported that an investigation had concluded and no charges would be filed.

U.S. Senate Race: U.S. Sen. Rob Portman's (R-Terrace Park) reelection campaign launched his first television ads this week.

The three ads are intended to showcase Sen. Portman's efforts to combat the prescription drug and heroin epidemic. They're part of a \$15 million ad buy stretching until November that was announced last month. (See *Gongwer Ohio Report*, May 12, 2016)

"Working together with Democrats and Republicans, I passed legislation to help break the grip of addiction," Sen. Portman said in one of the ads. "By investing in prevention, treatment, and recovery, empowering law enforcement, and stopping the over prescribing of painkillers, we can turn the tide."

NARAL Pro-Choice America, meanwhile, announced its own ad campaign targeting Sen. Portman. The campaign is aimed at pressuring Sen. Portman and other Republicans to fulfill the ongoing Supreme Court vacancy.

"NARAL is stepping up to ensure Sen. Portman does the job the people of Ohio elected him to do," NARAL Senior Vice President Sasha Bruce said.

Sen. Portman, who like many of his colleagues believes the next president should fill the post, previously said his stance is "the right thing for the country." (See Gongwer Ohio Report, May 9, 2016)

Former Democratic Gov. Ted Strickland, who's running in an effort to unseat Sen. Portman, landed the endorsement of the American Federation of Teachers, the group announced Wednesday.

"The future of our state depends on whether we are committed to our children," Ohio Federation of Teachers President Melissa Cropper said. "Ohio students and parents need the kind of arduous support Governor Strickland provides in making education his highest priority."

Capitol Scene: Kasich Names Kalmbach Press Secretary; Buckeye Institute Adds Research, Communications Staff

Gov. John Kasich on Wednesday named Emmalee Kalmbach as his press secretary.

Currently the communications director for Lt. Gov. Mary Taylor, the Bob Jones University graduate recently served as a member of the communications team for the governor's presidential campaign.

The native of Littleton, N.H. is also the former communications director for the Massachusetts Republican Party.

Ms. Kalmbach replaces Joe Andrews, who has been serving as the governor's interim press secretary since Rob Nichols departed last summer to work on the campaign. Mr. Andrews will return to his position as communications director for the Department of Public Safety.

In another development impacting the governor's staff, Jon Keeling, a former political blogger and deputy communications director for Mr. Kasich, has been named spokesman for the Department of Job and Family Services.

Buckeye Institute: The Columbus-based free market think tank on Wednesday announced two new staff members with the aim of focusing on budget and labor issues.

Orphe Divounguy was named economist in the Institute's Economic Research Center, and Jeff Reed will serve as the group's communications director.

Mr. Divounguy's research will focus on current economic issues, including public assistance programs and labor policies, and will entail "dynamic" scoring and analysis of

budgets in Ohio and other states, according to the group. Mr. Reed will lead the organization's state and national press relations and marketing.

"We are excited about the ideas and experience Jeff and Orphe bring to The Buckeye Institute and to Ohio," President and CEO Robert Alt said in a statement.

"The expansion of our Economic Research Center will make Buckeye the go-to resource for economic analysis of legislation. And Mr. Reed's extensive background in marketing will assure that our ideas are seen around the state and across the country."

Mr. Divounguy holds degrees from England's University of Southampton, and after receiving his Ph.D., he served as a teaching and research fellow and international economic consultant.

Mr. Reed previously served as the global communications leader for Corporate Responsibility at Indiana-based Cummins Inc. The Ohio University graduate previously held posts with the Friedman Foundation for Educational Choice and the American Legislative Exchange Council in Washington, D.C.

Governor's Appointments

Community Schools Dropout Recovery Study Committee: Alex Johnson of Solon for a term beginning May 31, 2016 and continuing at the pleasure of the governor.

Cleveland State University Board of Trustees: Todd C. Davidson of Cleveland for a term beginning May 31, 2016 and ending May 1, 2025.

Hamilton County Court of Common Pleas: Thomas D. Heekin Jr. of Cincinnati will assume office on June 6, 2016 and must run in the November 2016 general election to retain the seat for the full term commencing January 4, 2017. Mr. Heekin holds degrees from the University of Colorado and University of Cincinnati. He has been a criminal litigator for Heekin & Heekin since 2002.

State Employment Relations Board: J. Richard Lumpe of Columbus for a term beginning June 1, 2016 and ending October 6, 2021.

Supplemental Agency Calendar

Thursday, June 2

Elections Commission, Rm. East B., 31st Fl., 77 S. High St., Columbus, 10 a.m.

Monday, June 6

STEM Designation Committee, 25 S. Front St., Columbus, 1 p.m.

Wednesday, June 8

Consumers' Counsel Governing Board, Suite 1800, 10 W. Broad St., Columbus, 9 a.m.

Thursday, June 16

Expositions Commission, Voinovich Center, 717 E. 17th Ave., Columbus, 11 a.m.

Supplemental Event Planner

Thursday, June 30

20th Annual Rockin' Fiscal Eve, Miller's Ale House, 1201 Olentangy River Rd., Columbus, 5 p.m.,
(All-invited celebration
of the end of MBRs in FY 2016 with MBRs (Massive Beer Rounds). Parking adjacent to building.)

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Senate Activity for Wednesday, June 1, 2016

INTRODUCED

SB 337 ■ **ROAD NAMING (Hughes, J.)** To designate a portion of Interstate Route 270 in Franklin County as the "Hilliard Patrol Officer Sean Johnson Memorial Highway." Am. 5534.44

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Daily Activity Planner for Thursday, June 2

Legislative Committees

No legislative committees scheduled.

Agency Calendar

Construction Industry Licensing Board, 6606 Tussing Road, OCILB Conference Room, Reynoldsburg, 10 a.m. (HVAC Section)

Elections Commission, Rm. East B., 31st Fl., 77 S. High St., Columbus, 10 a.m.

State Employment Relations Board, 65 E. State St., 12th Fl., Columbus, 10 a.m.

Event Planner

Ohio Department of Taxation public hearing on proposed current agricultural use values, 22rd Floor, 30 E. Broad Street, Columbus, 10 a.m.

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